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The woman behind the National Childbirth Trust, PAGE 17

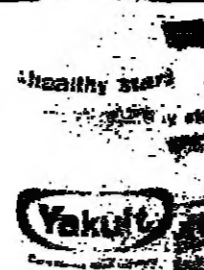
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APPOINTMENTS
18 PAGES of top jobs

Loyalty card plan to counter Tesco

'Trolley wars' dent profits at Sainsbury

By SARAH BAGNALL

J SAINSBURY was forced to count the cost of the supermarket "trolley wars" yesterday when it reported a £100 million slump in profits — the first fall in 22 years.

With Tesco reporting surging sales to reinforce its position as supermarket top dog, Sainsbury's is to revamp its marketing strategy, introduce a "loyalty" card and even launch its own credit card and financial services.

The chairman, David Sainsbury, admitted that the group had failed to employ enough staff to give customers the services they expected, and also spoke of "ineffective marketing" and "lapses in product availability".

Industry analysts were more blunt, saying the family business had fallen behind because of arrogance, complacency and an over-reliance on its own brands that meant customers could not find the household-name products they wanted.

Over the past two years, Sainsbury's share of the food retail market has been eroded while Tesco and Asda have consistently enjoyed healthy sales on the back of a string of novel marketing and customer service initiatives.

Last year Tesco overtook Sainsbury for the first time in 15 years to become the country's biggest supermarket chain, and last month it announced that increased sales had led to a 15 per cent surge in profits. By contrast, Sainsbury reported yesterday that profits had fallen from £809 million to £712 million —



and even that performance was better than the City had expected.

Almost half of the decline could be put down to the cost of converting the recently-acquired Texas do-it-yourself shops into Homebase stores. And the "mad cow" disease crisis was said to have cost the group some £9 million. But the main problem was the core supermarket business and the profit slump would have been even worse had it not been offset by improvements from Homebase and the Shaw's food chain in America.

On the stock market, relief that the figures were not as bad as had been feared and news about the planned loyalty card helped to lift the shares by 15p to 372p.

The decision to introduce a customer card follows the success of Tesco's Clubcard, which was dismissed by Mr Sainsbury as an "electronic Green Shield stamp" on its

launch last year. In spite of his derision, Sainsbury introduced its own SaverCard in some stores and will now launch another version across the group — although details were not disclosed yesterday.

Mr Sainsbury said: "I think we will now have the sort of scheme we would like to have." He said Sainsbury had been determined to bring out a card which rewarded loyalty without high administrative costs — which the customers would have to bear. The company will also issue its own credit card, with a possible view of offering holders a range of financial services.

The initiatives will be part of a new strategy based on an extensive marketing review conducted after the appointment of a new marketing director last year. It has already recruited another 5,000 staff to pack bags and offer other services, which the company says has led to a significant improvement in customers' perceptions.

Mr Sainsbury said: "In recent years some of our competitors have narrowed the general gap in ratings. Until recently, our marketing approach has not been effective in countering this trend."

Mr Sainsbury has already said that he is to relinquish his position as chief executive by the end of this year, yesterday he announced that David Bremner of Watson & Philip is to be chief executive of the group's non-food businesses.

King of the grocers, page 5
Tempos, page 28



Ice skating champion Christopher Dean and his wife Jill in their Buckinghamshire garden after his debut as a ballet choreographer. Review, page 39

Labour plans to help working mothers

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is drawing up ambitious plans to make it easier for mothers to combine a career with bringing up a family by offering financial incentives to bridge the two.

Tessa Jowell, Shadow Minister for Women, is negotiating with the Shadow Treasury and Employment teams on a package that is expected to be included in Labour's manifesto for the general election.

Labour is hoping to address key areas where professional women who also want to be parents can suffer. It intends to provide help for women who want to take time off to

raise a family without jeopardising their careers.

Mothers are expected to be targeted in the first phase of Labour's plans for individual learning accounts in which the Government gives £150 if the employee puts £25 into his or her account. Labour would encourage women to put money into their accounts while they are still working so that they can draw on the state contribution when they want to brush up their skills during their career break.

The party is already looking at ways of helping mothers with very young children with child care. But Ms Jowell points out that the problem also arises with mothers with older children who also face frustrations in going back to work. She argues that employers should be much more flexible in giving mothers time off when necessary.

Ms Jowell is also drawing up a package to prevent mothers from being forced back to work earlier than they would have liked because they need the money. She is said to be looking at ways of giving mothers financial help at times when they are out of work. One possibility is to

ensure that income is spread more evenly over the women's working life, taking into account times when someone might want to work part time, or stop work all together.

In a Fabian summer lecture in London last night, Ms Jowell said: "In balancing home and work, the questions often asked are about the extent to which women want to work and the extent to which they have to work to supplement the family income." She made clear that while parents were responsible for bringing up children the state should play a part in

helping them to that successfully. She said: "It is no good just moralising about parenthood and doing nothing to support parents in discharging their responsibilities."

Ms Jowell hinted in her speech at the need to make maternity payments continue over a longer period to allow mothers who wanted to stay at home with their young babies. "For many mothers the ending of maternity pay after 14 weeks means that they are forced back to work much earlier than they want."

Brown's welcome, page 11

Move to lift beef by-products ban

A plan for lifting the world-wide ban on British beef by-products has been put forward by the European Commission. But there were strong doubts that it would be accepted by member states.

The Ministry of Agriculture said it was "encouraging step" but cautioned against too much optimism. Britain would be required to comply with strict processing conditions. Page 4

Mother jailed

A woman with a personality disorder which leaves her emotionally stunted was jailed for five years for killing one of her daughters and poisoning another. The judge said he was sentencing her with a heavy heart because there was no other course available to him. Page 3

Guillemot takes high dive to record beneath the sea

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 300 feet under the North Sea a robot camera surveying around the base of the Ocean Nomad oilrig picked out a sleek black and white shape sweeping past.

The astonished camera operator believed at first he had seen a penguin thousands of miles away from its Antarctic home and called his colleagues over. "We pointed out that it couldn't be," said Douglas McCall, a surveyor for Shell.

"However, when we saw the video there was no doubt that it was a bird. We had no idea what type, but later we found out that it was, quite incredibly, a guillemot."

The bird, filmed 100 miles northeast of Aberdeen in the appropriately named Guillemot Field at a depth of 292 feet, can be seen clearly on the video for around 30 seconds, swimming around in circles.

Graham Garden, of Stolt-Comex Seaway, who was controlling the camera from the rig's control room, said yesterday: "I have never seen anything like it at that depth. You see fish, and the occasional shark. But I have never seen any bird life."

The crew, who were mooring a marker buoy, believe the bird might have been attracted by the lights of the small submarine. "It was swimming about like a fish, perfectly happily, which to us was phenomenal when you consid-



The bird, above, at 292 ft below the sea. Right: a guillemot

er the pressure at that depth," Mr McCall said yesterday. The cameras later picked up what may have been another guillemot flashing by.

The guillemot's achievement was hailed yesterday by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Ian Bainbridge said: "This is amazing. The deepest we have ever known a guillemot to dive

to is 197 feet. Humans at the same depth have to hide in diving bells or reinforced suits, but this bird is obviously quite comfortable on its own."

Guillemots have paddle-like wings so they can "fly" underwater, but have not lost the power of flight, except for during a few weeks in the summer when they grow new feathers. The birds, which average 16 inches in length, dive to depths of 100 to 150 feet to catch small fish and sand eels.

The guillemot's dive was almost modest compared to previous achievements by members of the auk family, which have reached 630 feet.

Other animals have exceeded the depths. An emperor penguin has been recorded as diving 1,584 feet and a leatherback turtle at 3,973 feet. But the star performer was a bull sperm whale which, in 1969 is claimed by scientists to have dived well over 10,000 feet.



Redwood urges ministers to hold EU referendum

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR'S hopes of restoring Tory unity in the wake of the local election setback were dented yesterday as it was revealed John Redwood is urging ministers to consider holding a referendum about Britain's future in Europe on general election day.

The former Welsh Secretary and party leadership contender is expected to suggest the idea to ministers in the hope of deterring Sir James Goldsmith from putting up candidates against Tories at the next election.

Mr Redwood, who has held private talks with Sir James, is confident if the Government accepted the idea the billionaire financier would wind up his Referendum Party. Voters would be asked whether they wanted to remain part of a "common market" or a superstate.

But as Mr Redwood disclosed his go-between role, and the eight former whipless Eurosceptics promised to force a Commons vote on a referendum, the Tories were plunged into a new bout of Euro-warfare when a leading pro-European accused sceptical colleagues of being "lunatics".

Edwina Currie, the former minister, told a European Movement press conference: "Certain members of the party who gave press conferences

this morning have taken leave of their senses. The Eurosceptics are completely loony." Britain, she said, had no choice than to be in Europe, "the greatest association of trading members this world has ever seen".

Labour will capitalise on the continuing Tory divisions by forcing a Commons vote next week on the common agriculture policy. Government whips had hoped to avoid conflict by holding the debate on a technical motion and allowing Tory MPs not to vote. But Labour will now stage a vote to try to bring Tory Eurosceptics on side and highlight a split.

Mrs Currie said her Eurosceptic colleagues damaged the country's position, weakened its credibility and made it much more difficult for ministers to get what Britain wanted out of the union.

Attacking the call for a referendum on Britain's EU membership, she said: "The Eurosceptics went too far this time. It's one thing to demand a referendum on a single currency. It's quite another to demand one on whether Britain should remain in the EU."

Continued on page 2, col 6

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Boy died after being refused treatment'

They may have given up on Westminster for the time being but one day they will swarm and attack the Foreign Secretary. If Malcolm Rifkin thinks throwing the locusts a few leaves from time to time will placate them, he deludes himself.

for Europe Day to make statement."

Tony Saunders, assistant manager of the Queen's flagmakers, Black and Edwards in Orpington, said: "We will be flying the EU flag not for any political reason, but because it is a flag day, but I cannot imagine that Her Majesty will have one on the roof of Buckingham Palace."

Leading article, page 1

against passing a referendum on the Maastricht treaty. He added: "There is a lot of sympathy in the country for referendum on general election day."

The former whipless rebel was unrepentant as the unveiled plans to push for a referendum.

Teresa Gorman, MP for Billericay, said she would secure a slot for a ten-minute rule Bill next month. Last month a similar backbench measure to curb the European Court of Justice's powers embarrassed the Government by attracting the support of more than 60 Tory Euro-sceptics.

Ms Gorman would seek a referendum within a few months of the election. She said: "People are saying that we want our country back. They are saying we are sick and tired of eating humble pie every time the European Community is faced with a problem that relates to Britain."

She said she had discussed her Bill with Mr Redwood, who had expressed interest.

Redwood manifesto
Peter Riddell, page 11
Leaming angle, page 11
Leaming article, page 11

Three men took off from Oxford yesterday in a 30-year-old Cessna hoping to complete one of the last great aviation challenges. They plan to be the first to circumnavigate Africa in a single-engine aircraft, making 55 stops in 27 countries.

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Flaming mess as spirit that crossed mountains and oceans is dropped on highway

Olympic biker falls foul of tradition and snuffs out torch

By ALAN HAMILTON AND QUENTIN LETTS

EVERY athlete's worst nightmare came true yesterday for a cyclist in America: he inadvertently extinguished the Olympic torch.

The man — who has not been named — was carrying the flame across the spectacular Tacoma Narrows bridge in Washington state. Owing to high winds, he had switched from pedal-power to a motor bike. When he reached the bridge, the rim of his front tyre caught in the metal grating of the roadway and the athlete fell off.

With him descended the torch, ancient symbol of the Olympic Games, on its way from Greece to Atlanta. To the dismay of onlookers, it flickered, then died.

A replacement torch was swiftly reignited at the bridge. Organisers claimed they used the "mother flame" sparked by the sun's rays in Greece.

It is by no means the first time that the flame has gone out on its way from Mount Olympus to the Olympic stadium and previous relightings have taken place in more dubious circumstances. Ray Bird, a retired Hong Kong civil servant now living in Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, claimed that the Olympic flame had been blown out by a typhoon as it rested for the

night in the colony on its way to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and that the Japanese relay team bearing it from Greece to Japan were to this day none the wiser. Mr Bird, who acted as manager of Hong Kong's tiny Olympic athletics team, told *The Times* that the flame had arrived by air from Thailand and had been borne by runners from the colony's Kai Tak airport to the City Hall, where the then governor, Sir David Trench, used it to ignite a gas jet in the adjoining garden. During the night, the wind blew out the flame.

Members of the colony's boxing team were guarding it, unaware that a spare "mother flame" was still burning inside the City Hall. They relit it with a box of matches.

"The flame was taken by air to Tokyo the next day, but I do not believe the Japanese ever knew that it had gone out," Mr Bird said. "We told the Hong Kong Olympic officials, but they went white and told us not to breathe a word of it."

A more documented extinction occurred at Melbourne in 1956, when television cameras were allowed into the opening ceremony for the first time. The runner bearing the living Greek flame entered the half-lit stadium and promptly tripped over a television cable.

The torch went out and was rekindled with the aid of a cigarette lighter.

The whole notion of the living flame being brought from Greece is of somewhat unsavoury provenance. It was dreamed up by Nazi organisers of the 1936 games, hastily moved by the Spanish Civil War from Barcelona to Berlin. Top engineers and chemists from the Krupp armaments company designed the torches, which burnt magnesium and lasted for fully ten minutes.

The lighting ceremony at Mount Olympus, using a large concave mirror, was recorded by Hitler's favourite film-maker Leni Riefenstahl, who originally wanted the Greek peasant boys bearing the torch on its first leg to run naked. The peasant boys would have none of it.

This year's games open on July 19. A route across America, traversing 42 states and taking 84 days, has been planned for the flame. After yesterday's accident, it was carried to a ferry bound for nearby Seattle.

Superstitious souls may choose to see the extinguishing of the torch as punishment for American organisers using vehicular transport rather than naked Hellenic runners.



A long way from Tacoma: the flame being lit in March, with the sun's rays concentrated by a concave mirror

Ancient law keeps skeleton neighbour at bay

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A PERTSHIRE farmer has successfully used an ancient Scottish law to protect himself from a neighbour who hung up a skeleton and wrote RIP in wet cement near his home.

Robert Morton, who lives with his wife Doreen at Balhaldie Farm, Braco, near Dunblane, used the Act of Landburrows, established in 1429, to protect himself from Alexander Liddle of Balhaldie Cottage, whom he accused of threatening behaviour.

The ancient law is rarely used in the Scottish civil courts but is designed to protect civil liberties and personal safety. Its wording has not changed in over 500 years and it states that "the complainant, his wife, bairns, tenants and servants shall be harmless in their bodies, lands, tacks, possession, goods and gear".

Mr Morton resorted to the obscure law following a bitter feud with Mr Liddle that has lasted more than five years. The Justiciary Appeal Court in Edinburgh heard yesterday that the Mortons and Liddles shared an unclassified road to their homes and in 1991 the Mortons obtained a ruling preventing Mr Liddle leaving his car near the entrance to one of their fields.

In July 1993 Mr Liddle suspended a skeleton outside his shed in full view of the Morton's house with an abusive note for Mr Morton.

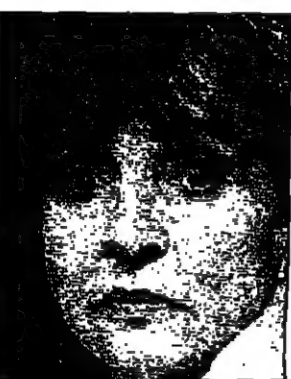
In April 1994 Mr Morton mended the access road and later discovered the letters RIP scrawled on the wet cement. The Mortons say that their fence posts were loosened allowing their sheep to escape onto the A9 and that in October Mr Liddle placed a condom on one of their gates.

The case was originally heard by Sheriff John Wheatley in Perth who found for the Mortons and described Mr Liddle's actions as "mindless persecution".

Mr Liddle appealed but yesterday Lord Ross, the Lord Justice Clerk, sitting with Lord Morrison and Lord Milligan rejected the appeal saying they would give their reasons in writing at a later date.

Catholic Herald sacks writer after her attack on archbishop

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT



Thomas Ellis dismissed

THE Catholic Herald has sacked Alice Thomas Ellis, the novelist who delivered a vehement attack on the late Archbishop Derek Worlock of Liverpool in her column in the paper last week.

In a front-page apology tomorrow, the acting Editor, Harry Coen, says the article was insensitive and "an error of judgment on my part". He writes: "We have no hesitation in apologising unreservedly."

Thomas Ellis provoked outrage among Roman Catholics with her

claims that Archbishop Worlock took Liverpool, once the most Roman Catholic city in England, to the bottom of the Mass attendance tables. She also said that he caused a slump in conversions and vocations and that he avoided people who did not share his views.

She said that the media was "taken in by the PR" and that those who did not agree with the Archbishop were "effectively silenced". She also said that his strong relationships with other denominations had weakened the Catholic message in the diocese.

The article caused widespread

offence in a Church which had regarded Archbishop Worlock, who died of cancer earlier this year, almost as a saint. It prompted the weekly paper's largest postbag, with more than 100 letters.

Thomas Ellis, a traditionalist Catholic and author of works including *The Clothes in the Wardrobe*, was hired three years ago by Cristina Odono, the Herald's Editor. Miss Odono is currently on sabbatical, writing her second novel.

Thomas Ellis claimed last night that her dismissal was a direct result of the article. "I am going to go on fighting for the faith. I will not be

silenced," she said. "The hierarchy are bullying, authoritarian. They will not listen to the people. The faithful write to their bishops and get no answer. They are utterly bewildered. I was lucky that I managed to get a voice for three years."

Mr Coen said that her dismissal had been decided upon before the article appeared, and was for financial reasons. But Ms Thomas Ellis said that she had not been told that she was to be sacked until after the column appeared. "Of course I'm being fired because of the article."

The latest controversy has placed her at the head of the liberal-versus-

traditionalist battle currently being fought in the Catholic Church in Britain. Her dismissal will give her the status of a martyr among conservative Catholics whose campaigns on issues such as education, abortion and family life are gaining in momentum. They have launched a successful rival to the Herald, the *Catholic Times*, which takes a strictly traditionalist line.

The liberal-conservative battle is also thought to have affected the choice of Archbishop Worlock's successor, which has been delayed by months. Intense lobbying has taken place on both sides.

Mother who poisoned her daughters is jailed

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A WOMAN with a personality disorder that leaves her emotionally stunted and cold was jailed yesterday for killing one of her daughters and poisoning another.

Mr Justice Garland, sitting at the High Court, said he was sentencing Celia Beckett, of Newark, Nottinghamshire, to a prison term with a heavy heart because there was no other course available to him.

Her case provoked criticism of police and social services last October when Beckett was convicted after a month-long trial at Nottinghamshire Crown Court of the manslaughter of Tracey, four, and of poisoning her youngest child, Debbie, then two, with anti-depressant tablets.

Nottinghamshire police admitted their investigation into the case was "sloppy" and the social services department launched a review of its child-protection policy.

Beckett, 34, who has been living in a bail hostel, had psychiatric tests before sen-

tencing. Experts have been looking at the possibility that she had Münchausen's syndrome by proxy, which compels people to harm others to draw attention to themselves.

However, the court was told that psychiatrists found she was suffering from a personality disorder but was not mentally ill or impaired. Beckett, graded two points above mental handicap in educational terms, is unable to express normal emotions.

The Mental Health Act required a sentencing judge to be satisfied the defendant was suffering from a mental illness, "which this defendant is not". Mr Justice Garland said. He hoped that Beckett would receive appropriate support and treatment in jail.

Beckett was sentenced to five years for manslaughter, five years for administering a noxious substance to Tracey, four years for administering a noxious substance to Debbie, and six months for wilful neglect, all concurrent. At her

trial, the prosecution accused welfare agencies of a wholesale failure to protect Beckett's children, Tracey, Debbie, now six and living in care, and Clare, who died aged seven in 1991.

In November 1984 Clare, then five months old, was taken to hospital after she stopped breathing. She spent the rest of her life in a home for severely ill children, dying five years later blind, epileptic, mentally handicapped and with cerebral palsy.

A charge against Beckett of causing grievous bodily harm to Clare was dropped because of insufficient evidence. She administered a severe dose of anti-depressant tablets to Tracey in 1986, when the child was four. She gave the same poison to Debbie five years later but the child recovered and is now living under a new name with adoptive parents.

The full facts of the case emerged only after the bodies of Tracey and Clare were exhumed in 1994.

Odd job pair 'killed employers'

By PAUL WILKINSON

AS TWO elderly sisters prepared afternoon tea in the garden for their odd-job men, the workers planned to rob and murder them, a court heard yesterday.

Before the tea could be poured by Elsie Gregory and her widowed sister, Aileen Dudhill, at their home in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, Michael Pluck and Laurence Berton attacked them. Robert Smith, QC, prosecuting, alleged at Sheffield Crown Court. Yesterday the two men, both 37, of Worksop, Nottinghamshire, denied murdering Miss Gregory 73, and her sister, 80, who suffered multiple injuries last June.

Mr Smith alleged that Mr Berton cut himself in the attack and his blood was spattered around the house. Fingerprints of both men were also found. Police found the charred remains of Miss Gregory's dentures and clothing at the home of the accused. The trial is expected to last three weeks.



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Vanessa.

Vanessa's just insured
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'Hypocrisy' over young lovers

By JOANNA BALE

BRITAIN is portrayed as a nation of hypocrites in Turkish television's dramatisation of the story of 13-year-old Sarah Cook, who married a Turkish waiter after a holiday romance.

The five-part series — in which the 18-year-old waiter, Musa Komeagac, plays himself — portrays the Essex schoolgirl as an overweight, headstrong teenager who is rescued from an unhappy life by the young Turk.

She complains to him that she has no friends because her peers tease her for being fat and a virgin. When the marriage is greeted with outrage by the British, they are accused of hypocrisy for turning a blind eye to teenagers who indulge in underage sex in their own country.

The director, Halit Refig, one of Turkey's best-known film-makers, said: "We wanted to show the inside story of



Sarah Cook and her 'husband' Musa Komeagac. He tells her that Turks like large women

an incident that was so prominent in the media. If the marriage had not been on the front page of *The Sun* then it would not have been a story — no one cared about it here until it appeared abroad. But people's motives and earlier events are not widely known."

The couple's unofficial Muslim marriage in January,

after a summer holiday romance at a Turkish resort, made headlines when *The Sun* newspaper bought the story for £20,000 from Sarah's parents, Adrian and Jackie, of Braintree. It emerged that the Cooks allowed their daughter to run up a £1,500 telephone bill in calls to Turkey, and they let her skip school and fly out to Turkey alone to spend

six weeks with him and his family in south-east Turkey, then joined them for the traditional Muslim wedding.

When the story caused uproar in Britain, Mr Komeagac was speedily charged by a Turkish court for the statutory rape of his "wife", since she was too young by Turkish law to marry, and the Muslim ceremony — although common and socially acceptable — is not recognised officially.

Mr Komeagac, who is reported to have earned £30,000 for playing himself, is currently on trial. Sarah was made a ward of a British court and spirited back to Britain in February.

In the 50-minute first episode, Sarah contrives to bring the waiter to her hotel room, where she tells him she is in love with him, adding: "I never had any friends at home. They all made fun of me because I was fat." He replies: "In Turkey, we like large women."

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Europe unlikely to back partial lifting of beef ban

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN for lifting the world-wide ban on British beef by-products was put forward by the European Commission yesterday, but there were strong doubts it would be accepted by EU states.

Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, won the approval of his colleagues for making the necessary formal proposal on gelatine, tallow and semen. Britain would be required to comply with strict processing conditions for the by-products. The Commission agreed that once these were in place and monitored the ban could be lifted.

However, it seems unlikely that the move will be endorsed by the veterinary committee, the voice of the member states, which meets next Wednesday and must vote by qualified majority before the Commission can start easing the ban. The Commission's move was welcomed by Downing Street yesterday as a move in the right direction. The Ministry of Agriculture said it was "an encouraging step" but cautioned against too much optimism. Ian Gardiner, poli-

cy director of the National Farmers' Union, said: "Our problem for some time has not been with Brussels, which has tried to be helpful, but with other EU member states. There is a very real danger that their representatives on the veterinary committee will turn down even this limited relaxation of the ban."

Germany, France, Italy and other member states remain opposed to any softening of the

draconian restrictions on British beef and by-products until more scientific evidence is produced to confirm their safety. With domestic beef markets badly hit, continental governments are reluctant to do anything which could fuel further consumer fears over the meat.

Jochen Borchert, the German farm minister, said earlier this week that his country would oppose any easing of

the ban on the by-products for the time being. Philippe Vasseur, his French counterpart, had said that any such move would be premature and could trigger a consumer boycott of all French beef.

At the same time, European leaders are anxious to defuse a crisis that has helped to spur anti-European feeling in Britain and further strained London's already difficult relations with the rest of the EU. They want to calm the dispute before the EU summit in Florence on June 22, but are unlikely to agree to a suggestion from John Major that they convene a special summit to tackle the BSE problem before then.

In London, senior officials played down suggestions that Mr Major was on the point of demanding such a summit. But if the Commission's recommendation is not accepted next week, attitudes in the Government are certain to harden and Mr Major could be expected by his colleagues to take a firmer line and demand a summit.

It was confirmed yesterday



Franz Fischler, whose proposal faces a stiff test by EU member states next week

that he had written to Jacques Santer, the Commission President, suggesting a summit would be an option if member states refused to lift the ban.

Herr Fischler bases his case for beef by-products on a finding by the World Health Organisation, endorsed by EU scientific experts, that they carry no risk of contamination provided they are subject to specific treatment. If the Commission proposal were to be approved next week, the ban could be lifted "as quickly as the British authorities get the controls and procedures in

place", a spokesman for Herr Fischler said.

The Meat and Livestock Commission said last night that a lifting of the ban would boost confidence in British beef products. It estimated the value of gelatine exports last year at £39 million, tallow £4 million and semen £857,000.

However, Britain faces a further rebuff in Brussels next week after veterinary surgeons cast doubt on the credibility of the Government's scheme to keep cattle older than 30 months out of the food chain. These animals are re-

garded as more likely to be infected with BSE.

Bob Stevenson, the president of the British Veterinary Association, said that some farmers might be tempted to extract teeth from mature cattle to make them appear young enough to qualify for human consumption.

Stephen Rossides of the NFU said it would not make commercial sense. "Farmers would get more in compensation for disposing of an over-age animal under the cull scheme than by passing it off as a younger beast at market."

Labour try to get rid of their Tory blues

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A LABOUR council is planning to spend thousands of pounds on red street signs and litter bins because the 23-year-old blue ones remind voters of the last Tory administration.

The move by Gedling Borough Council, which was expected to be rubber-stamped last night, has provoked disbelief in the Nottingham suburb.

But the ruling Labour group, whose first decision on taking office last year was to change the blue municipal diary to red, is adamant that the move should go ahead.

Labour is proposing that the blue and yellow civic livery will be changed to burgundy and cream. Meredith Lawrence, the Labour chairman of the housing committee, said: "Some people are not aware that Labour is in control. Blue is identified with the Tory party and that is not a good thing."

Labour has not costed its plan, which will involve repainting street furniture, signs, grit and litter bins, bus shelters and council vehicles.

Andrew Mitchell, Tory MP for Gedling and a junior minister, said: "Tony Blair pretends he has created new Labour but the old loony Left is alive and kicking the council taxpayers of Gedling. I have had dozens of calls from people who thought it was a joke but it's no laughing matter when their money is being spent on politically correct extravagance."

Kidney deaths blamed on lack of facilities

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST 500 people with kidney failure are being allowed to die each year because there are too few facilities to treat them, according to a report commissioned by the Government.

The national shortage of facilities for patients requiring transplants or dialysis is becoming increasingly acute and will worsen over the next decade, it concludes. Demand for one of the most expensive treatments offered by the National Health Service is accelerating because of the ageing population and advances in techniques.

The National Review of Renal Services was ordered by the Health Department almost two years ago, but publication was delayed by the Treasury because of alarm at its financial implications. It

Parents raise £10,000 to save teachers

BY DAVID CHAKTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS have paid £10,000 to save the jobs of two teachers threatened with redundancy.

Governors at the 510-pupil Hagley Middle School, near Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester, asked every parent for a £40 donation per child to tackle its £26,000 budget shortfall.

The school said that almost all parents responded but some said they felt blackmailed. Together with other savings made by the school the posts were saved before two teachers were named.

James Cowlshaw, chairman of governors, wrote to parents, saying: "Commitment by 100 per cent of parents is essential for the proposals to proceed and an immediate response is of paramount importance." He said redundancy notices would be issued by May 24 unless governors were certain of funding the school's full running costs from September.

Parents were told they should pay the £40 per child donation in three instalments starting this term. Arrangements could also be made to pay eight £5 instalments by standing order. Those in genuine hardship were advised to contact Colin Millett, the head teacher, who would "give sympathetic consideration to your personal circumstances, in strict confidence."

Steve Harper, who has a son at the school, said: "I am appalled. We will pay it but it seems a bit of a cheek on top of all the other bills. The school seems to be in an impossible position."

Jane Tandy, another parent, said: "Most of us have agreed to pay up for the sake of our children's schooling. I feel we were slightly blackmailed but we had to do it."

Saxon Spence, chairwoman of the Association of County Councils' education committee, said the situation was part of a worrying trend. "It is a sad reflection on the underfunding of our schools, with pupils being held to parents' heads. Obviously parents will try very hard to respond but schools are asking them for more and more and you begin to lose your right to a free education. We are in danger of having well-provided schools only in well-heeled areas which is unacceptable because everyone pays taxes to provide a decent level of education for their children."

Eddie Oram, principal education officer at Hereford and Worcester County Council, said its £227 million education budget was £12 million less in real terms than three years ago. Several parents had called the council to complain and were told the school could legally ask for only a voluntary contribution. "I don't think parental contributions are a realistic approach," Mr Oram said. "There are many schools where there is no way parents could afford it."

BSE toll 'will drag on'

Scientists predict that hundreds of cattle will still be dying every year from BSE at the turn of the century. Researchers at Oxford University's zoology department claim that from 1996 to 1999 between 15,000 and 24,000 cattle will develop the disease because of failure to enforce controls on contaminated feed.

Among signatories to their warning letter in the science journal *Nature* is Professor Sir Richard Southwood, former vice-chancellor of the university, who produced the first report on BSE for the Government in 1989. The Agriculture Ministry said that since March, when banned parts of bovine carcasses were still turning up in cattle feed, surveillance had been increased. A spokesman said 40 high-risk feed mills were being inspected every week and another 260 mills every month.

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1967 John Lennon unveils his psychedelically decorated Phantom 5 Rolls-Royce.

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Sainsbury's decline is blamed on arrogance and complacency

How king of the grocers lost its hold on Britain

BY SARAH BAGNALL

SAINSBURY'S was once the undisputed king of the food retailers. It boasted the highest number of customers with the highest spending, a winning combination that ensured its position as Britain's largest and most profitable grocer.

But after more than a decade lording it in the top slot the unimaginable happened. Sainsbury's has been toppled off the "most popular" pedestal by Tesco and is struggling hard to regain its footing. Yesterday it announced its first fall in profits in 22 years.

The reasons for Sainsbury's fall from grace are blamed largely on the group's culture. Although it is a fully quoted company on the London Stock Exchange, the Sainsbury family retains a large proportion of shares and David Sainsbury is both chairman and chief executive, a situation which City analysts argue is the cause of many of the group's current problems.

"Basically, it comes down to arrogance and complacency, which is partly due to being a family firm," Philip Dorgan, a food retail analyst at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, said. "Sainsbury never questioned whether what it was doing was right and assumed that whatever anyone else was doing was wrong."

As it rested on its laurels, its more aggressive rivals eroded

TESCO

Tesco's Clubcard awards customers one point for every £5 spent above a £10 minimum. The points are converted every quarter into money-off vouchers which can be used to save on future shopping bills. Points can also be earned on purchases at a variety of other outlets, such as B&Q and Lunn Poly, but can be redeemed only in Tesco stores.

SAINSBURY'S

Sainsbury's has been offering a Savercard scheme in 32 stores, mainly new ones and those with a big competitor near by. Customers earn ten points for every £10 spent, which can be used to save on future bills. Buying certain products earns bonus points. The card unveiled yesterday is expected to incorporate the Savercard.

ASDA

Asda is conducting trials of its Asda Club scheme in 16 stores and may extend it depending on the response. Customers earn one point for every £1 spent. Points earned cannot be spent on food and can be used only to buy wine, beer or spirits (a bottle of whisky costs 1,190 points) or non-food items (a teapot cost 790 points).

SAFeway

Safeway's ABC card awards customers one point for every £1 spent. There is no minimum. Points can be used to save on future purchases: every 100 points earns £1 off. Points earned can also be used to buy promotions (100 points buys ten oranges), in-store services, such as crèches or dry-cleaning, or money off family outings.

its grip on the market. Paul Smiddy, an analyst at Credit Lyonnais, said: "They were too slow at recognising that times had changed and that their traditional route to success was no longer appropriate."

Sainsbury's winning formula

for some time had been to churn out own-label goods with a conveyor-belt consistency, but it overstepped the mark and customers objected to being force-fed the company's own products to the exclusion of the branded products

they wanted. Its attitude to rival initiatives was revealed starkly in February last year when Tesco became the first food retailer to launch a loyalty card.

At the time David Sainsbury was scathing about the move, rejecting "electronic Green Shield stamp-type schemes as a way of offering customers value". However, Tesco's Clubcard has been a resounding success. Yesterday Sainsbury's caved in to competitive pressure and announced that it was launching its own card.

The delay exposed another perceived problem: a slowness to make changes. Compared with Tesco and Asda, Sainsbury's is seen as sluggish and unimaginative. Mr Dorgan said: "It is like the Civil Service: if it's not broke, don't fix it. Historically they have never had any new people coming from the outside into the top jobs, so they never had any new ideas."

Loyalty cards are one of the many initiatives employed to great success recently by Sainsbury's competitors. As a result, any lead Sainsbury's had on customer service has been snatched away. Tesco was the first to introduce opening a new till if a queue of more than two formed at another checkout.

Mr Dorgan said: "Sainsbury has the busiest stores and so it couldn't get away with offering the same service



Critics say the firm's malaise is partly down to David Sainsbury, who is both chairman and chief executive

as everyone else. Two to three years ago customers started saying, 'I can't find what I want here because there are too many own-label brands. I can't find anyone to help me as there are too few staff and, when I get to the checkout, they are four to five deep. Why don't I go to Tesco.'"

Asda has also emerged as a winner in the tussle for customers. It now has three million shoppers visiting its stores, 50 per cent more than it had two years ago. Mr Smiddy said: "Asda's game plan is to inject more fun into the mundane act of food shopping, which served to emphasise that the Sainsbury way of doing things is a bit matronly."

Among the mass of ideas introduced by Archie Norman, Asda's chief executive, are singles evenings and 24-hour shopping at Christmas. There is also a special service for the big shopper: a gold-plated trolley and chandeliers at the checkout.

Among the plethora of

initiatives from other groups are in-store crèches, dry-cleaning services and bag-packers. Earlier this year Tesco announced the creation of 4,000 jobs to bolster customer services, Sainsbury's said yesterday that it now had 5,000 more bag-packers than it had six months ago.

In spite of its predicament Sainsbury's is by no means a lost cause. The need to restore its marketing edge may be resolved by the arrival of Kevin McCarten as marketing director. But his stay at his previous employer, Kingfisher, was not long enough to be able to judge the effectiveness of his actions.

However, the recently announced management changes, which will ultimately result in Dino Adriano taking over the reins of Sainsbury's supermarket business, is welcomed. The problem is the lengthy delay before he actually steps into the shoes of the chief executive.

Shopping list of the future will give us food for thought

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

FOODS designed with specific health effects are the big idea of the future on supermarket shelves. They include a milk drink claimed to protect against cancer and a Coca-Cola product allegedly boosting brain power.

The forecasts follow yesterday's *Times* report on a new Finnish margarine that can cut blood cholesterol levels by 10 per cent. A raft of other "functional foods" are on the horizon, due to increased scientific understanding of the healthy constituents of the diet.

Yakult, a fermented milk drink, is the latest to be launched in Britain and the first to be transferred directly from Japan, where functional foods are widely sold. Marketed in packs of seven tiny bottles — one for each day — containing a brown liquid tasting like thin condensed milk, Yakult has an added lactic acid bacterium which is claimed to maintain a healthy balance in the gut intestine, protecting against cancer and other diseases.

Made in The Netherlands, it is in the vanguard of an expected invasion of products from the Far East, where marketing regulations are less stringent.

Six branded soft drinks containing polyphenols — an anti-carcinogenic which stops tooth decay — are being sold in Japan as the answer to the dental problems caused by sugary drinks. More controversially, Coca-Cola has launched a drink aimed at the adolescent market which is claimed to promote learning ability. It contains DHA, a fatty acid essential to brain development in the foetus and infant.

Jack Winkler, chairman of a working group on functional foods at the National Food Alliance, an umbrella organisation representing 70 groups in-

volved in diet and health, said: "We are moving to the point where we can tell which elements of food have which effects. We are talking about a radically different concept of food."

"We may have specifically designed food for people with high blood pressure, a high risk of heart disease or other conditions. But we are going to need a very good assessment mechanism to sort out the functional from the phoney."

From the commercial point of view, functional foods have tremendous promise. You can tell people to eat more of it and the profit margins are higher. It's a marketing man's dream."

Mr Winkler, addressing a meeting on healthy eating attended by food industry representatives, organised by Verner Wheelock Associates at the Royal Society of Medicine in London, said that adding "healthy" ingredients was not without risk. Two recent trials of beta-carotene shocked researchers by showing that when taken as a supplement to the diet, it actually increased the risk of death from heart disease. Citing the BSE scare, Mr Winkler said: "These catastrophes have a long fuse."

Dr Alan Malcolm, director of the Institute of Food Research in Reading, said it would be wrong to dismiss beta-carotene, which had undoubted health benefits: "We need more work to define the right dose. It reflects the fact that when you enter a new field, you can get things wrong."

Dr Malcolm forecast that the market for functional foods would grow: "There is no question that they are beneficial, but the extent to which they benefit health and the question of whether we should manipulate our diet in this way are controversial."

ASDA	SAFeway	SAINSBURY'S	TESCO
Chief executive: Archie Norman Salary: £510,000 Sales: £5,285 billion Profit before tax: £287.2 million Stores: 200 Employees: 75,000 Customer incentives: ASDA Club, money-off vouchers, 16 stores. (year to April 25, 1995)	Chairman: Sir Alistair Grant Salary: £267,000 Sales: £5,217 billion Profit before tax: £175.9 million Stores: 309 Employees: 95,000 Customer incentives: ABC card, money-off vouchers on purchases. (year to April 5, 1995)	Chairman: David Sainsbury Salary: £367,000 Sales: £13.5 billion Profit before tax: £712 million Stores: 382 Employees: 110,000 Customer incentives: Savercard scheme. (year to March 9, 1995, includes contribution from foodservice and US operations)	Chairman: Sir Ian MacLaurin Salary: £1.01 million Sales: £13.03 billion Profit before tax: £575 million Stores: 545 Employees: 130,305 Customer incentives: Clubcard points give money off future purchases. (year to February 24, 1995)

*Full and part time

Tempos, page 28

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Johnners auction loosens ties of memory

By Russell Jenkins

THEY are the memories of a life that was not just full but overflowing. Brian Johnston left behind a half-century of English cricket bursting from every shelf and cupboard of his study. Now they are being auctioned in aid of the sport he loved.

More than two years after the commentator's death, his widow, Pauline, has emptied his wardrobe of 250 club ties and swept up biographies, Wisdens, portraits, cartoons, signed cricket bats and assorted memorabilia.

"He never threw anything away," she said yesterday. "Things just accumulated on the window sill. My housekeeper cursed whenever she came to dust it. There were so many ties that you couldn't shut the wardrobe door."

Out of respect for the great man, everything will stop for lunch at Saturday's auction at Phillips in New Bond Street, central London. There will be plateaus of cucumber sandwiches and, at tea time, Johnner's favourite chocolate cake will be served.

The booty includes personal scorecards, handwritten commentary notes, about 500 volumes from his library, prints, paintings and about 100 photographs of himself with cricket's great and good.



Pauline Johnston among her husband's souvenirs yesterday: "He never threw anything away"

In addition, there is Geoffrey Boycott's Panama hat, Will Carling's baseball cap, Denis Thatcher's golf cap, David Gower's helmet and Stirling Moss's crash helmet. Proceeds will go to the Brian Johnston Memorial Trust, set up after his death in January 1994 to develop cricket coaching for youngsters and to foster the sport among the blind and disabled.

Among many autographs, his most cherished was that of Patsy Hendren, a batsman for Middlesex in the pre-war

era. Mrs Johnston said: "When Brian was little and playing cricket in the back garden, it was always Patsy Hendren he wanted to be," Mrs Johnston said.

The sale is part of a larger auction of sporting memorabilia, including the bat used by Donald Bradman to score 212 for Australia against England at Adelaide in 1937. It bears Bradman's own personal inscription and the signatures of Hammond, Ames, Voce and others. Mike Ashken, Phillips's sports memorabilia consultant, said

he had already taken a dozen telephone calls from interested bidders in Australia.

There is also a padlocked box, bearing the legend: "The Gloves that did not split". It holds the red boxing gloves used by Henry Cooper on the night he knocked down Muhammad Ali, then Cassius Clay, at Wembley in 1963. Clay's aides had split their man's gloves with a razor to give him a few extra seconds to recuperate.

Mrs Johnston has purposefully withheld her husband's famous brown and white co-

respondent shoes and the cake in the shape of the shoes, baked for his 80th birthday, which stood inside Westminster Abbey at his memorial service. She hopes the shoes will one day become an exhibit at the Lord's museum. The cake, now rock hard, is staying put under the sideboard.

"There will be mixed feelings on Saturday," she said. "I kept some things, but his study does now look a little empty."

Cricket, page 42

Psychiatrist tipped off police about Daniel's murderer

By Richard Duce

A SPECIALIST in child sex abuse led police to the man accused of killing nine-year-old Daniel Handley after his wife told him about an episode of *Crimewatch*, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

The psychiatrist said that Timothy Morris had once confessed to him that he had an abiding fantasy of abducting, assaulting and killing a blond-haired, blue-eyed boy. The day after his wife had seen the BBC programme, he contacted the police.

Dr B, as he was called in court, was asked by John Bevan, for the prosecution, whether he had agonised over breaking confidentiality. He replied: "In the matter of the murder of a child and the matter of child protection, there was no hesitation."

Dr B said that he had seen Morris after he had completed a prison sentence for sexual offences. While in prison Morris had become friendly with his co-accused, Brett Tyler, and also with David Guttridge, who had referred both men to Dr B.

Morris, who had affairs with Tyler and Guttridge, described his fantasy to the doctor in the autumn of 1992. Dr B said: "He was telling me that he was interested in boys aged between eight and 13. The



Daniel: killer fantasised about blond-haired boys

boys were pre-pubescent, with blond hair and blue eyes. He was very specific about that," Daniel had blond hair.

The fantasy was to take the boy into a van, abuse him, kill him and dispose of the body. Dr B said that Morris appeared emotionally cold and harboured "disturbed and violent paedophilic tendencies".

He had no subsequent dealings with Morris. When he contacted the police he also told them that he believed Guttridge could have been involved in the murder.

Police arrested Morris and Guttridge days later, but subsequently cleared Guttridge. However, Guttridge, 59, who

helped his lover to flee the country by paying his air fare to the Philippines, will be sentenced later for perverting the course of justice.

Morris, 33, has admitted the murder of Daniel, who was snatched near his home in Beckton, east London. Tyler, 30, denies murder, but admits that he took part in the kidnapping and serious sexual abuse of the child on October 2, 1994. He says that Morris alone killed the boy.

Guttridge told the court that Morris had first told him of his fantasy while they were in prison. He had tried to help Morris to suppress his fantasy, but Tyler would "wind him up" because he, too, desired sex with young boys.

Guttridge, a chemical engineer with whom Morris lived at Bradley Stoke, near Bristol, said that Morris had confessed to him after publicity about Daniel's murder. Under cross-examination from Rock Tansey, QC, defending Tyler, Guttridge said that Morris had a "warped and twisted view of life" and saw sex as "power, revenge and vengeance".

He accepted that Morris was capable of strangling a child, but felt that Tyler "did not have the guts". Tyler was arrested in June last year in the Philippines, where he frequently went for sex with boys. The case continues today.

NEWS IN BRIEF

British soldier found shot

A British soldier serving in Bosnia with the United Nations peacekeeping force was found shot dead yesterday. He was named as Signaller Andrew Martindale, 23, who was single, from Newtownards, Co Down.

The Ministry of Defence said Signaller Martindale's body was found in a military vehicle in Visegrad, eastern Bosnia, with a single wound to the head. He was serving with 7 Regiment Royal Signals based in Germany.

Praise indeed

The American evangelist Dr Bill Bright was presented with the £700,000 Templeton prize for religion by the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace. Dr Bright, 74, is founder and president of Campus Crusade for Christ and the vigorous evangelising group Agape UK.

Victim's cash

Gregory James, 29, a teacher from Cornwall shot in the arm by nervous Cambodian police and soldiers in Phnom Penh last August, has received £650 from the foreign ministry in compensation. He was one of four foreigners shot outside the co-primers residence.

Criminal cabbies

Half of Glasgow's minicab drivers have criminal records, some for murder and rape, according to a police survey of 1,000 drivers earlier this year. The results, disclosed in a BBC Scotland programme *Frontline Scotland*, showed that one in ten had no minicab licence.

Cancer gene hunt

Britain's first research centre dedicated to finding cancer-causing genes was officially opened at the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, Surrey. Projects include studies to isolate genes involved in kidney, testicular and prostate cancer.

Classic rockery

Dr Ruth Hoskin, of Cookham, Berkshire, discovered a classic car buried upside down while digging her rockery. The Wolseley 18/85 was complete except for the doors and number plates. The council, which owns the house, is making inquiries.

More radio Christians thrown to the lions

By Ruth Gledhill

THREE more clergymen have been dropped from Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*, bringing the total to seven — all of them male and middle-aged or older. BBC insiders say the corporation is seeking younger people, including more women, from outside the main churches.

Father Oliver McTernan, Roman Catholic parish priest of St Francis, Notting Hill, west London, and a long-time contributor to the *Today* programme's religious slot, has joined the list of those being "rested" by the BBC.

Others who have gone include the Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford; the Ven George Austin, Archbishop of York; the Rev Leslie Griffiths, former president of the Methodist Conference; and Canon Philip Crowe, former principal of Salisbury and Wells theological college.

The Right Rev Roy Williamson, chairman of the Central Religious Advisory Committee, which advises the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority, is seeking "clarification" of why so many contributors are being dropped simultaneously.

One influential listener, Sir Sigmund Sternberg, a close friend of Bishop Harries, said: "All those dropped are good people. This has all been very unscientific. Proper market research on what listeners want and like should be done before a decision like this is taken."

The *Today* presenter John Humphrys, interviewing Ernie Rea, the BBC's head of religion, yesterday criticised the contributors as "endangered species". "Old hands" had been "dropped or rested" in the quiet language of the BBC's religious programmes department.

Distancing the *Today* team from the decisions, he said: "It's they, not we on *Today*, who decide the cast list for *Thought for the Day*. We just provide the stage." He asked why so many of the BBC's thinkers had been "cast into spiritual limbo".

Mr Rea insisted that the contributors were being "rested" and not dropped. He admitted that one or two more names were still to emerge. Mr Rea denied that the contributors' political references had been a feature of the decision.

DROPMORE COUNTY FIRST SCHOOL NR. BURNHAM, BUCKS.

Will be celebrating its 200th anniversary this year on Sunday 16th June (2-5pm). We warmly invite anyone who has been connected with the school in the past to the "Old School Fayre" on that date. We would also love to hear from you with your reminiscences of the school. Please write to Box No. MEFH, PO Box 3553, Times Newspapers Ltd, 1 Pennington St, London E1.

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Show of hands seals verdict on Queen's portrait

BY ALAN HAMILTON

LORD St John of Fawsley, the unreconstructed monarchist, peered quizzically at Antony Williams's portrait of the Queen as it was unveiled at the Mall Galleries in London yesterday. "These are not the hands of the Queen," he declared emphatically.

Mr Williams, 31, whose work was previewed exclusively in yesterday's editions of *The Times*, won a £15,000 commission from the Royal Society of Portrait Painters to capture their royal patron on canvas. Yesterday, the knowing and the merely well-known gave it cautious approval, but with reservations.

Lord St John, a former chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, granted that it was a powerful painting. "But it has not got the essence of the Queen, which is her serenity, benevolence and happiness. It has caught one aspect of her, but a portrait should capture the whole person. Come back Winterhalter, all is forgiven."

As Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, unveiled the painting, several hundred invited guests broke into simultaneous applause, and several gasped. "Ooh, brilliant," enthused one. "Oh,



Canvassing opinion: the media jostle for a good view of the Queen's portrait after it was unveiled by Mrs Bottomley at the Mall Galleries yesterday

fantastic, enduring quality," said another. And a third, more prosaically: "She looks as if she's had a rough year, doesn't she?"

The hands caught onlookers' eyes almost as much as the face. "You never see her

hands; she's always got gloves on," said one guest, inspecting the uncompromising detail of broken fingernails.

Mrs Bottomley agreed that it was a powerful and striking image. "It is a very strong statement about Her Majesty.

It is not a chocolate box picture and a lot of people will be sorry about that. The painter has presented his interpretation and it will be much debated in the months ahead."

Others pressing around

Mrs Bottomley for a sight of the canvas were less politically neutral. "It's good, but it's sad," said one woman. "No lipstick — and the hands are dreadful," said another, veering close to a state of shock.

June Mendoza, the distin-

guished portrait painter for whom the Queen has sat several times, thought the picture excellent. "People look at portraits only as portraits; they forget to look at them as paintings. This is a painting as well as a portrait and it is a

very clever trick to combine the two."

The Queen, according to Ms Mendoza, is difficult to portray. "She needs a lot of subtle painting and you never have enough time because the sittings are rationed. She can look grim, but when she smiles everything in her face changes shape and she is radiant. This is a painting in which she is not smiling; it is a careful analysis of her in purely painting terms."

The 4ft by 3ft canvas shows the Queen's face and hands as wrinkled, puffy, rubbery and distinctly elderly, whereas recent photographs of her birthday celebrations suggested that she was wearing her years with grace and relaxation.

Mr Williams, however, was unrepentant, saying he believed it was an honest portrait and a good likeness. "I was not trying to go out of my way to shock, but I was trying to find something deeper. I was not trying to make any political statement; this is a pure portrait."

At least the Queen's painting is on view. A portrait of Mrs Bottomley, submitted for the annual exhibition, was rejected by the hanging committee.

Leading article, page 19

Applicants for gun licences 'should have to advertise'

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

GUN enthusiasts should face tighter vetting, including detailed medical and personal references, senior police officers told MPs yesterday.

One officer suggested that applicants for firearms licences could also be made to advertise in newspapers so that anyone who knew them could express objections or anxieties.

Giving evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs, Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie, president of the Police Superintendents' Association, said legal notices were already used for liquor licenses and guns, represented a more serious risk than the sale of alcohol.

Addressing the committee, which was hearing evidence on handgun controls in the wake of the Dunblane massacre, Mr Mackenzie said the notices might be an alternative to psychological profiling or special psychometric tests. Both would be very difficult to put into practice because of the resources needed.

Jim Sharples, Chief Constable of Merseyside and president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, also ruled out tests or profiling. He said there was no basic psychological measurement for owning a gun against which applicants could be tested.

He said GPs were more likely to have information that could be relevant and they should be asked to complete a standard questionnaire about applicants. The doctor would not be asked to make a

judgment — which many GPs were loath to do — but provide material for the processing of the application.

Applicants for gun licences are already asked whether they have suffered from epilepsy or mental disorder but MPs were told there was no information provided on whether applicants had suffered depression or stress.

Mr Sharples said police felt the current system, where counter-signatories affirmed that the application form was accurate, had fallen into disrepute. He said: "It is not difficult for someone to get a signature from someone they know fleetingly." People who signed the forms should look seriously at the individual and have the strength of character and public responsibility to perform the task properly.

Police would like the signatory to be someone who has known the applicant for ten years and they should be asked direct questions about whether the applicant is suitable. The replies would be in confidence. At the moment police rarely check the signatories unless their suspicions have been roused by other information.

Mr Sharples said he disagreed with suggestions that all guns could be kept at clubs because they would become a target for thieves. Some clubs would have to hold up to 800 weapons. Legal notices might also identify gun owners to thieves. Instead there should be legislation that set out new levels of security for keeping guns at home.

Vision from Sky ends TV darkness

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A SATELLITE television company is hurrying to the rescue of frustrated television viewers in the Yorkshire hamlet of Thixendale, the valley community cut off from terrestrial television by geography.

A team of technicians was due to descend on the 35 homes in the Yorkshire Wolds this morning, proffering free satellite dishes and signal decoders, a year's free subscription and, for those who until now have had no reason to bother with a TV, even a free set.

"There will be no need for them to wait for four terrestrial channels, we can offer them 28 satellite ones instantly," said Raymond Jaffe, a spokesman for BSkyB. "We will be knocking on doors offering the equipment and immediate connection. We will beat BBC and ITV into Thixendale."

News International, owner of *The Times*, owns 40 per cent of BSkyB. The offer came after yesterday's *Times* report highlighting the villagers' plight. At present, those few

residents who do have sets see only a snowstorm when they tune in and rely on video recordings made by friends who live in areas of better reception.

This week the community of 120 people launched a fortnight-long festival, "Life Without TV", to raise the £10,000 needed to erect a communal hilltop aerial to feed the four land-based networks into their sets.

Adrian Ingleby, the festival organiser, has been staggered by the media interest in the story. "I have spoken to obscure London radio stations, foreign TV networks, everybody. I suppose we should be grateful for all the publicity for the festival."

However, he regarded the offer from BSkyB which includes a year's free subscription, with some trepidation. "I'm not sure how well they will be received," he said. "It's not the quality of the programmes particularly, it's all a question of paying for it after the first year."

Television, page 47

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THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 9 1996

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THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 9 1996

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Fossil sleuths trace long-lost fragment of giant flying reptile



BY NICK NUTTALL

FOSSILISED remains of the world's largest flying creature, the size of a Second World War Spitfire, have been identified by scientists after months of detective work in the Middle East.

The Anglo-German team believes it has found the neckbone of a flying reptile similar to the pterodactyl. It had a wingspan of 12 metres and was flying over the earth 65 million years ago.

Dr Martin Martill of Portsmouth University and Dr Eberhard Frey of the State Museum for Natural History in Karlsruhe rediscovered the bone after it was unearthed in Jordan over half a century ago, during the

building of the Damascus to Amman railway, and then lost.

The archaeologists believe its owner had a wingspan up to a metre larger than its nearest rival, a flying reptile or pterosaur called *Quetzalcoatlus northropi* found in Texas. Dr Martill said the "new" find, called *Arambourgiana philadelphiae*, was as big as a light aircraft and probably had a world-wide distribution. "It had a really massive head, tiny body, and enormous wings. Not the sort of creature you want to meet on a dark night or park your car under." The bone led the team to conclude that not only had they found a new species but also nature's biggest flyer.

A workman building the railway

unearthed the 62cm fossil in 1943, attracting the interest of a Mr Kavar, the head of a phosphate mine near by. "It was eventually shown to a man called Fielding, a Brit and director of antiquities at the local museum," Dr Martill said. "The event was considered so exciting at the time that the bone was even shown to the then King of Jordan. He accused Fielding of blasphemy after being told that the bone was millions of years old."

The first full appraisal was carried out by Camille Arambourg, a French palaeontologist who shipped the fossil back to Paris and published a report in 1954. He concluded it was a handbone from a pterosaur.

But Dr Martill and Dr Frey

decided that the bone was worthy of a fresh appraisal after seeing a photograph of it a few years ago. They went to Amman last year to trawl through museums and the mine's offices. The even tracked down a Mr Kavar, the mine owner's grandson. "He is a shipping magnate and was interested in the story, remembering the specimen being brought into the house as a 14-year-old boy," Dr Martill said.

After weeks of searching, the scientists gave up, in spite of finding other fossils hidden in a curio cupboard at the mine's head office. Fortunately, a Jordanian geologist who had been helping them during their visit kept searching and a few days later found the bone at the

university. "It was a place we had not considered because it is a new university," Dr Martill said. "But there was the specimen."

Dr Martill said the full length of the artefact was originally probably about 77cm, making it larger than the neck of any other known pterosaur.

The description of the find and the species is published in *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie*. The scientists believe that *Arambourgiana philadelphiae* was very similar to *Quetzalcoatlus northropi* and are willing to discuss the possibility with other researchers that they are the same species. So far, however, their research indicates that they are different.

Work on Newbury bypass unearths Stone Age village

BY ADRIAN LEE

ARCHAEOLOGISTS believe they have unearthed a Stone Age settlement beneath the route of the Newbury bypass. But even if excavations confirm the importance of the site, the £101 million road will be built over the top of it.

Wessex Archaeology, which made the find, hopes that it could prove to be one of the best six sites of its kind in Britain. Flint tools, up to 10,000 years old, have been recovered during preliminary digs alongside the River Lambourn. A contract, worth about £300,000, will be awarded by the Highways Agency tomorrow to excavate the area.

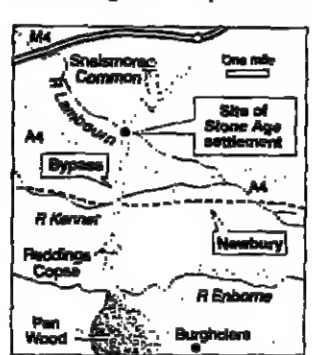
The discovery would not have been made without the construction of the bypass but, however significant the site proves to be, it will be covered with a plastic membrane and the road will be built above.

It is hoped that the membrane will protect the site throughout the life of the bypass. A spokesman for the Highways Agency said: "If, in say 200 years' time, it is decided we no longer need cars or roads, the site will be preserved by the covering and people will know exactly where to dig."

Andrew Lawson, director of Wessex Archaeology, said:

"We have to be philosophical about the site being lost. The building of the bypass has given us an opportunity we might not have had."

The existence of a possible settlement came to light when 400 exploratory trenches were dug along the 8½-mile route of the dual carriageway. Similar archaeological explorations



are now routine whenever a big road is built, but Newbury produced unexpected finds. At other sites along the route there was evidence of Roman-British occupation and a medieval farmstead.

Wessex Archaeology hopes that the latest site will provide a valuable insight into life in Mesolithic times—the Middle Stone Age, between the end of the Ice Age and the beginning of agriculture. The discovery

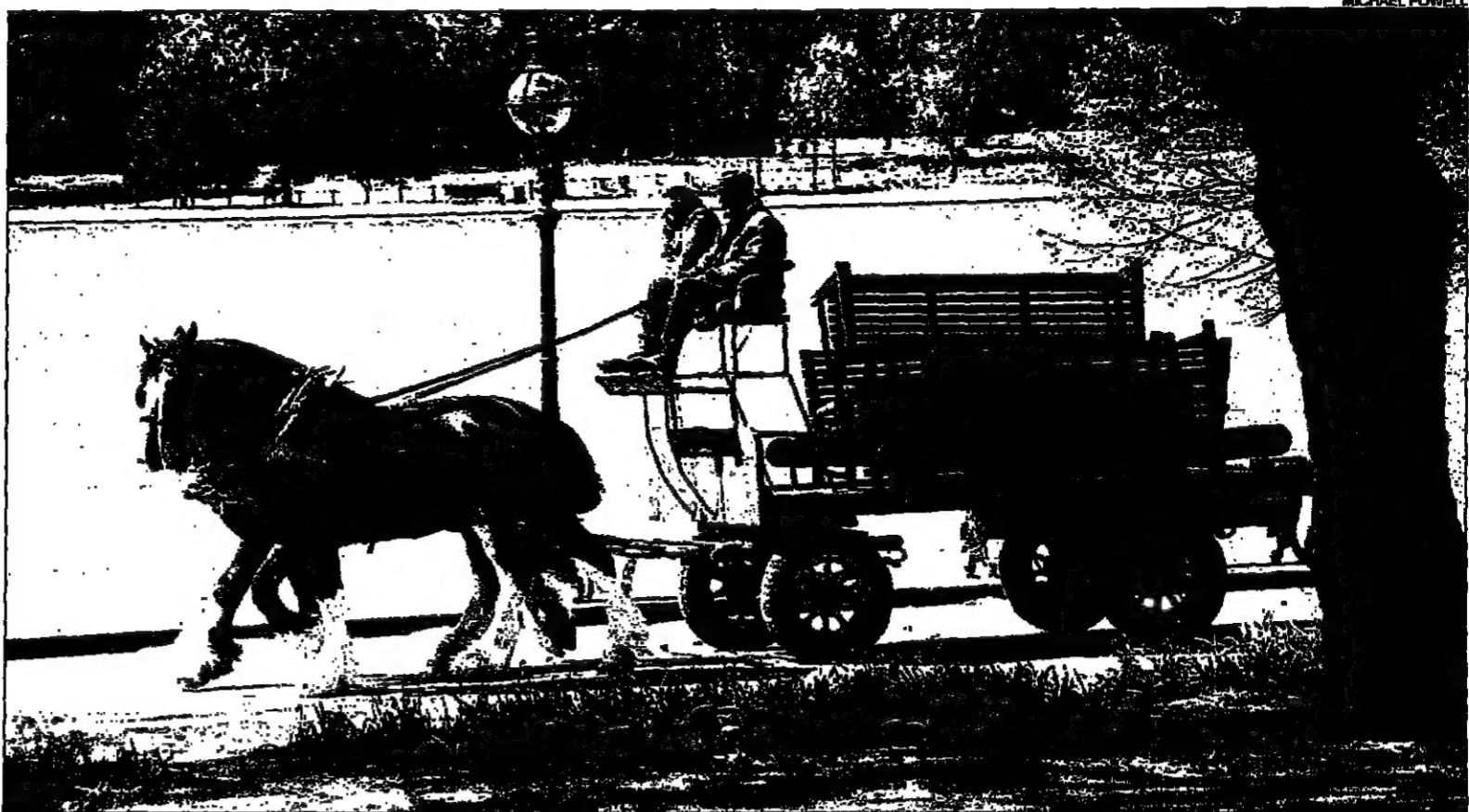
of whole settlements is rare, with only half a dozen sites of significance in Britain.

The best found so far is at Star Carr, in the Vale of Pickering, North Yorkshire, where wood from building structures and leather clothes were unearthed more than 40 years ago. It was probably a hunting camp site, used 10,700 years ago by some of Britain's earliest post-Ice Age inhabitants.

The Newbury site, on the flat river flood plain, would have made an ideal settlement. Mr Lawson said: "Until the full excavation it is difficult to say exactly what is there, but all the indications are that it is an important site."

The dig should begin within the next month, giving archaeologists a few weeks before construction of the bypass begins, probably in July. Among the signs of human occupation for which they will look are animal and fish bones, giving clues about the Stone Age diet and life. Any discoveries will be housed in a museum in the Newbury area.

The Mesolithic Age began in 10,000 BC and ended in 4,000 BC. Initial finds from the trenches at Newbury suggest the likely settlement dates from about 2,000 years into the Middle Stone Age.



Jim and Gaymer, 17-hand shires, being put through their steady paces in the park yesterday. They will help with harrowing and haymaking

Shire horses bring pulling power to the park

BY ROBIN YOUNG

SHIRE horses brought a nostalgic touch of rural life back to central London yesterday. They reappeared in Hyde Park after a 50-year absence to help with harrowing, haymaking and hauling carts around the 350 acres.

Two 17-hand shires, Jim, aged eight, and Gaymer, 13, have been transferred from Richmond Park. Their new full-time employment was arranged by David Welch, chief executive of the

Royal Parks Agency. "Horses are beautiful," he said yesterday. "They attract visitors while lorries, tractors and vans repel them."

"We could eventually have horses pulling landaus in the park, pony traps and all kinds of things," Mr Welch previously built Aberdeen's parks department up to 38 horse-power.

Horses were used in London's eight royal parks until the 1950s, when they were supplanted by motor vehicles. Jim and Gaymer, chosen for their

sleekly dark good looks, were bought for £3,000 each and Mr Welch estimates that they will cost between £30,000 and £40,000 a year to run. "That compares quite favourably with motor vehicles. The horses quickly become economical when they are used for light jobs with frequent stops and they are particularly good going over grass or pulling timber out of woodland. Then they each produce manure to the value of £70 a year."

The shires will share stables with 16 horses of the Royal Parks Constabulary's mounted patrols. The two gentle giants showed the patience for which their breed is noted when they went on parade yesterday for a bevy of photographers.

A passerby mistook their drivers, Steven Greene and Mark Buxton, for rag-and-bone men. Mr Buxton has a more dignified pedigree: "My grandfather was stud groom at Sandringham and my father worked in the royal paddocks at Hampton Court, so I am the third generation to work with royal horses."

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Redwood strives to rally party behind his flag of unity

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN REDWOOD published a personal manifesto yesterday that he claimed would unite the Tories and help to avoid defeat at the general election.

Only days after pleas from the party's high command for unity Mr Redwood, last year's defeated leadership contender, rallied his supporters behind his programme for the new millennium. In a sideswipe at Malcolm Rifkind, who argued in *The Times* this week that Tories should not be shouting their differences from the rooftops, he said: "I am not one of those who take the fashionable view that all we need to do is to keep quiet for a year and we will then win the general election. I believe that we should be strong and clear in setting out our beliefs."

Mr Redwood, whose Westminster press conference was seen as underlining his credentials as a future Tory leader, was supported by the backbench Tory MPs Julian Brazier, Jacques Arnold, David Evenett and Christopher Gill. He said: "This is a call to arms for the Conservative Party."

The Conservative cause was not lost, he said, but he declined to speculate on whether John Major would

win the election if he stuck to his present policies.

Mr Redwood presented *Action Not Words*, a 75-page pamphlet set to every Tory MP, a combination of traditional One Nation Toryism and Thatcherite policies. The pamphlet, an attempt to broaden his appeal beyond rightwingers who supported his abortive leadership challenge, advocates a return to the "tax cutting crusade" of the Thatcher years, a restoration of mortgage tax relief, a reduction of VAT on fuel, a 200-mile exclusion zone for British fishing, and support for institutions such as the National Health Service.

Mr Redwood denied provoking further discontent or writing an alternative manifesto to the one being produced by Conservative Central Office. "It's not about who leads the Conservative Party: that was decided last summer. It's about where we are going as a nation and a party."

Economic recovery and the return of the elusive feelgood factor would not be sufficient to turn the electoral tide, he said. He hoped that some of the ideas would be taken up and put in the real manifesto. "In some cases I hope that will

be before the manifesto is issued to improve our chances of winning."

The powers of the "unruly and overmighty" European Court should be curbed. "We do not have many powers until we have established that an Act of Parliament is supreme and cannot be overturned by the European Court. There is a growing resentment at some of the policies Brussels is pursuing."

Pressed on whether the Chancellor should announce tax cuts in the November Budget to stimulate electoral support, he was markedly more cautious than in his leadership election. The position had changed because of BSE, a failure to enforce a recruitment freeze on the Civil Service, and because long-term interest rates were rising in Europe.

"We are united in wanting to reduce income and capital taxes when we can and in wanting to concentrate public spending on crucial services while finding economies elsewhere. But taxes must not be cut again if we then make a mess of the economic policy as a result."

He insisted that he was not fuelling the divisions in the party that Cabinet ministers



A call to arms: John Redwood at the launch of his pamphlet yesterday

argued had contributed to their losses in last week's local government elections. "We are a long way behind in the polls. We have to urge our case at every opportunity. I am going to carry on taking every opportunity over the year ahead to

urge people back to the Conservative way. "You would find a very large number of Conservative parliamentarians who would agree with a lot of what I said about how we should develop health and education, develop

our attacks on Labour and how we want a Europe of nations. "You don't unite a party by saying nothing. You unite a party by having a clear, bedrock of principles which are commonly shared."

Labour enjoys the spoils of Tory Euro-war

So much for Tory unity.

All the pious appeals by ministers over the weekend were brushed aside yesterday as Tory MPs indulged in infighting as usual. Malcolm Rifkind's attempt at Foreign Office questions to defend the Government's careful compromise was starkly undermined by strongly anti-European statements from behind him, as well as by the earlier antics of the self-described "Westminster Eight", the former whipless Tory MPs. But the committed pro-Europeans have also become increasingly vocal: Edwina Currie yesterday helpfully described her sceptic colleagues as "completely loony" and having taken "leave of their senses".

It is not just the appearance of public disagreement. The sceptics' views are totally at odds with government policy, even after its shift in a sceptic direction. Their demands, endorsed by John Redwood, for Britain to opt out of the common fisheries policy by imposing a unilateral exclusion zone and to pass legislation asserting the supremacy of the British Parliament over the European Court (as in Iain Duncan-Smith's defeated ten-minute rule Bill) are in practice incompatible with continued membership of the European Union. The comparison with the ruling of the German Constitutional Court is only partly relevant since this was a specific and highly conditional judgment, not a general assertion of sovereignty.

The possibility that Britain may have to consider withdrawal from the European Union is admitted by Norman Lamont and Jonathan Aitken as well as the hardcore sceptics. Indeed, the most significant recent development is that withdrawal is now being discussed by mainstream MPs and newspapers and is not just regarded as an extremist fantasy. It was striking that on Tuesday John Major felt the need to offer the unsolicited assurance that "the view right across my party is that we are better off remaining in the EU" — when that view is evidently not shared by a number of his colleagues.

John Redwood is the most interesting player in these manoeuvrings. Since last Ju-

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

ly's leadership contest, he has played a skilful hand, always appearing studiously loyal in his suggestions about how the Tories could win the election. That applies to most of the ideas in *Action Not Words*, the collection of his speeches and articles published yesterday. He has strengthened his credentials as a right-wing candidate for the Tory leadership.

However, Mr Redwood is trying to have it both ways on Europe — claiming that his views are consistent with Britain remaining in the EU (albeit imposing a veto on the known views of most other members) and, at the same time, echoing the increasingly nationalist mood of many Tory activists and MPs. He is also challenging the careful Cabinet compromise on a referendum on a single currency. He not only says that any further significant transfer of powers to Brussels institutions as a result of the IGC should be endorsed by the people but also expresses interest in Sir James Goldsmith's proposal for a ballot on whether Britain should be part of a Common Market or a country called Europe. Leaving aside whether this question means anything in practice, any attempt to move away from the current policy on a referendum would split the Cabinet apart, resulting in the resignation of several ministers as well as Kenneth Clarke. Mr Redwood is trying to portray himself as a peace-maker between the leadership and Sir James when his actions are more incendiary.

Labour can hardly believe its luck, being able to gloss over its own differences and to revel in the Tories' discomfiture, as Robin Cook did in the Commons yesterday. Even if an explosion over Europe can be avoided, the Tories face further debilitating arguments and embarrassing votes, as next week over the common agricultural policy. No wonder that the rest of the EU have given up on Britain until after the election.

PETER RIDDELL

Ashby successor

The Tories in North West Leicestershire have chosen Robert Goodwill, a Yorkshire farmer, as parliamentary candidate. The seat is held at present by David Ashby, who failed to be re-elected after losing a libel action against *The Sunday Times*, which accused him of being a homosexual. Mr Goodwill, 39, will defend a majority of 979.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: backbench debates: Foreign Office questions; Labour debate on the prospects for water supplies this summer; and on the law service: backbench debate on green belt land around Sutton Coldfield in the Lords: regulation of UK business; effects of rail privatisation; Dogs (Fouling of Land) Bill, second reading.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and the Prime Minister; Armed Forces Bill, remaining stages; backbench debate on Royal Marsden Hospital, West Belfast, in the Lords; Aviation and Immigration Bill; committee: Proceeds of Crime (Northern Ireland) Order.

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THE TIMES Leftwing

Bonn gives a welcome of tomorrow

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Leftwingers thwarted in plot to oust Harman

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

AN ATTEMPT by Labour leftwingers to force Harriet Harman's early removal from the Shadow Cabinet was defeated yesterday.

A proposal that the annual election should be brought forward to July rather than the usual date in the autumn was rejected after John Prescott, the deputy leader, argued that an internal election at such a sensitive time would hamper campaigning against the Government.

Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West,

proposed at the weekly meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party that the election, the last before the general election and therefore the one that would decide the shape of a Labour Cabinet, should take place soon. He said that a change in the timetable would mean that the election would not get in the way next autumn of any preparations for the general election.

Although Mr Flynn and his supporters did not mention Ms Harman by name her critics have long made plain that they wanted an early election so that they could punish her for her decision to send her son to a

selective school outside her home borough. Mr Flynn was one of her strongest opponents at the PLP meeting at which Tony Blair defended Ms Harman and showed that he had no intention of sacking her.

Yesterday Mr Prescott argued that it would be unfair to make changes in July because members of the Shadow Cabinet should be able to take the policy papers for which they had been responsible all year to the annual conference in the autumn.

However, Labour leftwingers were predicting last night that the decision could be followed by an attempt later

in the year not to hold any Shadow Cabinet election this year. Jeff Rooker made such a proposal yesterday but did not push it to a vote.

Mr Flynn's motion was defeated by 64 votes to 25. He later denied that his intention had been to remove Ms Harman and criticised what he claimed was the whipping of Shadow Cabinet and frontbench spokesmen to guarantee that his proposal failed.

A Labour source said that there was relief at the vote. Asked how it might affect Ms Harman's position, the source said: "This means any of the tensions that might have emerged

in the spring and summer have the opportunity to sort themselves out over the quieter period."

Labour MPs are continuing their attempts to persuade Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, to drop their plan to end child benefit for older children and replace it with a new grant for schoolchildren from poorer families. One senior backbencher said he had argued that had the plan been presented better it might have been saved. But the lack of emphasis on the school grants element had given the Tories a field day.

Bonn gives Brown a welcome worthy of tomorrow's man

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GORDON BROWN has been given the red carpet treatment in Bonn: a long meeting with the finance minister, Theo Waigel, and a dinner last night with the Bundesbank chief, Hans Tietmeyer. This is not, it is fair to say, the normal welcome offered to an opposition politician; earlier this week the Russian presidential candidate Gennady Zyuganov was in town and was shunned by every government minister.

The fact is that the Bonn political establishment likes the look of Labour and can barely conceal its distaste for the infighting of the Tory Government. Chancellor Kohl has traditionally found Socialists easier to deal with than Christian Democrats when it comes to European management: Jacques Delors, Francois Mitterrand and Felipe Gonzalez all seem to understand the Chancellor's Europe and were duly treated as intimate friends.

There is, as yet, no intimacy between Labour and the Chancellor, no "lieber Tony". "But he liked what he saw," reports a leading Christian Democrat, referring to Mr Blair's session with Herr Kohl last year. That meeting was held — one might almost say staged because it contained more theatre than substance — after Mr Blair had addressed the Social Democrats' think-tank, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. At the same institute, Mr Brown carried on where Mr Blair had left off: he promised a quick signing of the social chapter, serious consideration of monetary union and an end to "empty chair" politics in Europe.

The Social Democrats, after 14 years of Kohl rule still a long way from power, were a little dazzled even by Mr Brown's dour delivery. "It was very refreshing," said Guenter Verheugen, deputy party manager, "to hear a positive, pragmatic approach to Europe compared to some of the negative and obstructive voices we hear in Germany."

That pleased Mr Brown, even if Herr Verheugen briefly

forgot the name of the Labour leader: "Tony — er help me somebody — Blake." Visiting Labour politicians have an almost missionary significance for the Social Democrats in Bonn: we can do it, so you can do it too. But there is a paradox. The closer that Labour comes to power, so it finds it has more in common with other governing parties than with frustrated fraternal Social Democrats. In opposition, continental Social Democrats routinely lurch into either dogmatic argument, or leadership struggles.

Mr Brown's approach, presented in Bonn, was programmatic in a way that the Social Democrats cannot hope to be. A Labour government, he said, would campaign for the opening up of Europe and would get away from theological debate about the relative merits of deregulating or regulating the economy. It would fight to extend competition in

telecommunications, energy and airline fares as well as pushing for an overhaul of the common agricultural policy.

Herr Waigel received his first indication of how uncomfortable a Labour government could be for Bonn. Although, as finance minister, he has a strong interest in reforming the CAP he is above all a Bavarian with a powerful farming lobby growing at his heels. By and large the CAP has stayed off the European agenda for the past four years and though decisions have to be made — to admit East European candidates — there is no enthusiasm.

Mr Brown warned his Bonn audience: "In this debate Labour will not be uncritical supporters of every traditional proposal for greater European integration." The party would emphasise the need for "effective integration" while attempting to make Europe less centralist and bureaucratic. Even so Labour seems more intent on building bridges with Herr Kohl than on staking out separate ground.

Last year Mr Blair tackled the differences between Bonn and Labour more comprehensively than did Mr Brown. "The reason is clear," a long time German observer said. "Your situation in Britain has changed. Last year Mr Blair was in competition with John Major for the favours of Herr Kohl. Now there is no competition, only waiting."

The Labour offensive continues next month when Mr Blair addresses the German confederation of industry. The speech will almost certainly focus on Britain's attitude to the social chapter and on monetary union. Mr Brown has been urging Britain to start a debate on the practical aspects of joining a monetary union. The question of how relations should be regulated between those inside and those outside was prominent in the talks between Mr Brown and both Herr Waigel and Herr Tietmeyer.

William Rees-Mogg, page 18



Gordon Brown had long meeting with Theo Waigel, below



"No, it's a fine mess I've got us out of"

Lamont livid at 'phooey' version of opt-out talks

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN LAMONT yesterday reacted furiously to allegations by the former Foreign Minister Tristan Garel-Jones that he had nearly wrecked Britain's successful attempt to win an opt-out from the single currency.

In a BBC documentary, *The Poisoned Chalice*, Mr Garel-Jones describes how he guarded the door to prevent Mr Lamont, then Chancellor, from bursting into a critical meeting at which John Major and the Dutch Prime Minister, Ruud Lubbers, were seeking to reach a deal at Maastricht in December 1991. But Mr Lamont has accused Mr Garel-Jones of talking "nonsense on stilts".

In the documentary, which begins today, Mr Lamont claims he was responsible for clinching the opt-out by producing a piece of paper suggesting that none of the single

currency proposals applied to Britain. Asked if it was not the Prime Minister who had produced the paper, Mr Lamont replies: "No, I did that."

Mr Major says: "Well, I'm very surprised to hear Norman say that, and so will everybody else be who was actually there at the Maastricht negotiations. I think there will be some surprise amongst the officials and others who were there."

Yesterday Mr Lamont issued a statement insisting that nothing he had ever said about the Maastricht negotiations was intended to diminish Mr Major's role. "The Prime Minister was in overall charge of the negotiations. I worked under him and negotiated the detail of the opt-out in a series of meetings over one year," he said.

"I have confirmed my version of events with the Treas-

ury. What Mr Garel-Jones has said is nonsense on stilts."

In the documentary Mr Lamont tells how he walked out of negotiations during a meeting of finance ministers. But Mr Garel-Jones claims that he could have lost the entire deal. "That was really quite a major crisis because by then everything else was falling into place."

At one point Mr Major had a separate meeting with Mr Lubbers, chairman of the summit, to which Mr Lamont tried to get access, according to the documentary. Mr Garel-Jones says: "Norman Lamont arrived, wanted to go into the meeting, naturally he's in a state of some agitation. And we have to say 'Chancellor you can't go into the meeting'."

Mr Lamont said that Mr Garel-Jones's version was "phooey from start to end".

"We were booed in Blackburn, bamboozled in Blantyre, bewildered in Bombay and bombed in Brighton. When will you this happen every year for 10 years through EVERY OTHER letter of the alphabet."

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Thirty hurt in German nuclear waste riot

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY'S nuclear "war" came to an almost operatic climax yesterday as a cargo of highly radioactive waste reprocessed in France reached its final burial ground in a north German woodland.

Fireworks burst in the face of the police, smoke billowed from burning tyres and straw, and high-powered water canon battered thousands of chanting protesters.

About 15,000 police were deployed along the final 11-mile stretch of the journey from the train station in Dannenberg to the burial site in Gorleben, south of Hamburg. Clashes between police and anti-nuclear protesters led to at least 30 being hurt, with a similar number arrested.

"It would be almost appropriate to use the word 'war' at the moment," said a police spokesman. "The protesters were out of control."

The biggest damage, however, was to Germany's image as a country that has mastered its nuclear energy problems. Yesterday's atomic waste was only the first of 110 train-loads

that will be transported over the next eight years. Green activists were yesterday predicting that each of these loads would be accompanied by similar demonstrations until Bonn reversed its nuclear energy policy.

Since members of the Green and other political parties blocked the construction of a reprocessing plant at Gorleben, Germany's atomic fuel is sent for reprocessing either to La Hague in northern France or to Sellafield in Britain. It is then sent back for deep burial in Gorleben. Even this complicated procedure is, however, regarded as controversial.

For the Greens, the most important king-maker in German party politics, there is only one goal: to close down what they describe as the

"atomic lavatory" in Gorleben and ultimately to decommission Germany's 21 power stations. This political fundamentalism probably accounts for the speed with which ordinary economic protests in Germany turn into direct violent confrontations. The scenes along the long train route from France to northern Germany often re-

frightened cordons of police. The police, in turn, moved in hard, using fierce dogs, water canon and teargas.

The most delicate phase was in the road journey from Dannenberg railway station to the Gorleben burial site. The atomic canister had to be hoisted from a flat railway wagon on to a lorry. Convoys of riot police surrounded the nuclear container and police on foot flanked the lorry as it crawled along the straight country roads. Helicopters flying low added to the general sense of menace. Burning blockades, put up with the assistance of local farmers, were bulldozed away.

When the protesters — about 3,000 were actively involved — lay down in the road, the police beat on shields as if about to perform a tribal dance, belled and charged.

The police had been given almost carte blanche by the Interior Minister, Manfred Kanther, who declared at the outset that "these howling, masked protesters" should be treated with firmness.

For the Greens there is one goal: to close the "atomic lavatory" in Gorleben and 21 power stations

ben. Germany's atomic fuel is sent for reprocessing either to La Hague in northern France or to Sellafield in Britain. It is then sent back for deep burial in Gorleben. Even this complicated procedure is, however, regarded as controversial.

For the Greens, the most important king-maker in German party politics, there is only one goal: to close down what they describe as the

sembled partisan warfare as train tracks were ripped up by men in balaclava masks, signal boxes set on fire and bomb threats made at individual stations on the way.

Yesterday's confrontation, however, lacked even this subtlety: it was an outright riot. Demonstrators shot steel balls with catapults, fireworks and petrol bombs and stones were launched at the dense,



A protester grapples with German riot police in Dannenberg as nuclear waste is moved to nearby Gorleben



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WORLD SUMMARY

Rubbish plagues Athens

Athens: Greece's most pressing problem this week as temperatures soared above 30C (86F) is a load of rubbish (John Carr writes). Lorries began clearing 10,000 tonnes of rubbish yesterday that had piled up on city streets because the main Ano Liosia dump, north of the capital, was closed after fears were raised about residents' health.

The dump was reopened after pressure from the Environment Ministry, but authorities are threatening to close it again unless the Government enforces a 30-year-old law providing for hygienic, non-polluting land-fill sites.

Helms will face black rival again

Washington: America's black and white political divide was reinforced in North Carolina when Charlotte's former black mayor won a second chance to topple Senator Jesse Helms, 74, the icon of white populism, in November's elections (Tom Rhodes writes). Harvey Gantt, 53, swept aside a Democratic primary opponent, saying "I'm six years older, I'm six years wiser, I'm six years greyer and I'm also six years tougher."



Cat burglar: Maurice the kleptomaniac cat has been caught stealing women's underwear. The *Evening Post* newspaper in Wellington, New Zealand, said the cat's owner detected Maurice's fashion fetish when it began pulling her clothes about the house. Then, on nocturnal forays, it showed a penchant for singlets and bras, amassing about 60 items. (Reuters)

Pyongyang asks US for food

North Korea, which faces severe famine, has asked the United States for an urgent shipment of 3,000 tonnes of rice to cope with immediate food shortages (Leyla Linton writes). Food supplies are expected to run out in August, two months before the next harvest. If consumption, already rationed, continues at the present rate.

Peace talks off

Monrovia: Heavy fighting broke out in the Liberian capital and West African leaders cancelled talks in neighbouring Ghana that had been called to salvage a peace accord and reconcile the divided Government. Guerrilla factions fought one another with heavy machinegun fire and grenades. (AP)

Gangs cash in on lax Europe

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

CRIMINAL gangs, often based in Eastern Europe, are exploiting Europe's poor cross-border law enforcement to milk hundreds of millions of pounds from the European Union budget, the European Commission said yesterday.

The rise in large-scale crime is the biggest challenge in the Commission's efforts to tackle the misuse of funds, it said in its annual report on fraud. There was a 15 per cent rise to 4,700 cases, partly because of better reporting methods. These cost £880 million — or 1.4 per cent of the EU budget, about the same as last year, the Commission estimated.

Anita Gradin, the commissioner responsible for the EU's accelerating anti-fraud effort, said the rise in sophisticated international gangs accounted for the fact that 10 per cent of the cases involved 50 per cent of the money lost through unpaid duties and wrongly directed subsidies. Half the losses were in the agriculture sector, but the sharpest rise involved transit fraud as criminals diverted goods such as cigarettes, milk, animals and meat en route to avoid paying taxes due on arrival at their reported destination. These robbed the EU budget of £448 million.

The report cited a string of cases including the diversion of 150 lorryloads of butter and milk powder which left Britain bound for Poland but which went to Spain. This cost £2.6 million in wrongly paid subsidies. In one stunt, called the "meat merry-go-round", £34 million were cheated out of the EU. Live cattle were imported to Italy from Eastern Europe and then re-exported to Malta and back to Eastern Europe.

The report lamented the failure of the EU states to co-ordinate their law enforcement and judicial systems. This enabled the gangs, described by Mrs Gradin as "mafia-like" and often based in Eastern Europe, to make fools of the authorities trying to crack down on fraud. Fighting this menace required the 15 member states to "abandon their habits of judicial independence in favour of Community solidarity", it said.

Noting the widespread abuse of farm subsidies, the report cited the fraudulent marketing of milk beyond EU quotas in northwest England, which cost the EU £12 million. The Commission also complained about the failure of member states, including Britain, to recover mispaid funds. Only 17 per cent of fraudulently obtained funds had been recovered between 1992 and 1994.

Leading article, page 19

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History of Yugoslavia goes on trial with Serb suspect

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN THE HAGUE

THE HAGUE

THE international criminal tribunal began hearing evidence yesterday against Dusan Tadic, the alleged war criminal, at The Hague, where the history of former Yugoslavia is on trial alongside the Bosnian Serb accused of crimes against humanity.

The first witness, Dr James Gow, an expert on the Balkans from King's College London, offered a detailed analysis of the break-up of Yugoslavia, lying in the charges

against Mr Tadic with the wider history of the conflict and so implicating those responsible for atrocities at the highest levels.

The trial has become a study in contrasts: between the tribunal's lofty aim to build an international legal code for dealing with war crimes and the base nature of Mr Tadic's alleged offences; between the high-tech courtroom and the primitive horror of the events being described in it. Unlike the opening

day of the trial on Monday, when Mr Tadic sat almost motionless as the charges of murder, torture and sexual violence were outlined, he fidgeted and blinked with stress and boredom yesterday as Dr Gow described the complex constitutional wrangling that erupted into the bloodiest European conflict since the Second World War.

Mr Tadic makes an incongruous but oddly inconspicuous figure among the legal and academic experts in court, a man whose face might have appeared on any Bosnian news footage, on any side,

from the past five years. The court, which was custom-built by the United Nations in a former insurance building, has glimmering computer screens on every desk, bulletproof glass, television monitors and radio-controlled cameras picking up every courtroom twitch and nuance.

The task of narrowing the distances in this trial between Mr Tadic's alleged reign of terror and the orders of his Bosnian Serb superiors is expected to take up six months. At least 80 prosecution witnesses will piece together both

Mr Tadic's alleged crimes and the complex ethnic and political situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, while 36 defence witnesses will support the claims of Mr Tadic's legal team that he is an innocent man, facing an international lynch mob, who may be drowned in the "well of polluted justice".

Mr Tadic is accused of specific, horrifying crimes, but the Bosnian Serb leadership and even the authorities in Belgrade are implicated in the dock with him. For Richard Goldstone, the chief prosecutor, and his staff, the first war

crimes trial since the Second World War is an opportunity to build a complete picture of Mr Tadic's small but crucial place within the wider context of the genocidal events in Bosnia. This is an effort not merely to bring an individual to justice but an unprecedented attempt to understand and perhaps prevent a repetition of recent history.

Given what is at stake, Mr Tadic might be forgiven for wondering whether he is a bit player in his own legal drama: a symbolic pretext for dissecting a period in

history whose ugliness, in the words of the prosecution, "strains the most agile reasoning". Neighbours and victims of the terror in Prijedor have described Mr Tadic as a small-town bully with a taste for martial arts.

The historical background to events in former Yugoslavia allegedly affected him little until the full force of ethnic hatred and Serb nationalism reached his home in Kozarac when, according to the prosecution, he seized the opportunity to terrorise Muslims with enthusiasm and immense cruelty.

Kinkel urges nation to dispel Holocaust guilt

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY

KLAUS KINKEL, the German Foreign Minister, plunged into the middle of a fierce debate about the Holocaust yesterday by saying that Germans should no longer bear collective guilt for their wartime atrocities.

Addressing the American Jewish Congress in Washington, Herr Kinkel said: "Guilt is always personal, not collective and not inherited."

This most sensitive of subjects has come to the fore again because of a book by the American historian, Daniel Goldhagen, which says that Germans engineered the Holocaust because of a long pre-Nazi tradition of anti-Semitism. The book has been reviewed favourably in America but has prompted protests from German commentators who say that Germany was neither more nor less anti-Semitic than many other European states.

The controversy over the book has almost generated a diplomatic problem, with Germans saying that America is trying to revive the concept of collective guilt which blames all Germans for the crimes of

the Third Reich. Transatlantic dinner parties, with German guests in New York and American guests in Bonn, have broken up in bitter disagreement over the book.

Herr Kinkel chose to state the case against collective guilt in the most exposed of settings: to Jewish community leaders in America. "Whoever says history was inevitable, frees individuals from responsibility. That is wrong," the Foreign Minister said.

He said Germans were not trying to dodge responsibility altogether, but, rather, were concerned to show that it could not be generalised or regarded as a national characteristic. "National Socialism was not just a natural catastrophe. Someone was to blame," he said, "admitted the responsibilities we bore for the horrors that have happened as the whole truth of the Holocaust emerged after the war."

Germany had never been more aware of its involvement in the murder of Jews and

other nationalities and had drawn conclusions for their contemporary actions and policies. "It was and is too easy to switch off our consciences, to look away, keep quiet."

Herr Kinkel's comments are unlikely to calm the controversy. The debate has become so emotionally charged that Dr Goldhagen has decided to withdraw from a public discussion in New York about the Holocaust. In a letter to German publishers, he said he preferred to wait until the German translation of his book appeared in August.

The book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*, recounts incidents when police battalions, made up not of SS troops but of ordinary Germans, murdered Jews with pistols and rifles.

Bernie The Swiss Government said yesterday that it was willing to get involved in the hunt for assets belonging to Holocaust victims. A working group will recommend ways of investigating whether Swiss banks received Jewish funds confiscated by the Nazis. (AP)



Erich Priebke arrives at a military court in Rome yesterday escorted by carabinieri

SS officer 'was bureaucratic evil incarnate'

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

ITALY

THE trial of Erich Priebke, the man who is accused of taking part in Italy's worst wartime atrocity, opened yesterday in a military court, with the prosecution describing him as "bureaucratic evil incarnate".

Antonino Inticamo, the chief military prosecutor, said that Herr Priebke had shown "no real remorse" for his role in the killing of 335 Italians at the Ardeatine Caves on the outskirts of Rome in March 1944.

Herr Priebke, 83, was extradited to Italy from Argentina last autumn after being tracked down by an American television reporter with help from the Simon Wiesenthal Centre. As an SS captain, he had been adjutant to Colonel Herbert Keppeler, the Gestapo chief in Rome during the war, and allegedly played a key role in the rounding-up and murder of Italians in retaliation for the death of 33 German soldiers in a partisan ambush in Rome.

The defendant, who escaped from a British prisoner-of-war camp and lived openly in Argentina as a hotelier until his recapture nearly 50 years later, admits to killing two of the 335 Ardeatine Caves victims, but maintains he had no choice but to carry out orders from Hitler. The Italians, who included 75 Jews, were shot in the back of the head, kneeling on the corpses of those shot first.

Some of the victims' relatives suggest that Italy turned a blind eye to Herr Priebke until the American television

report. They point out that he visited Rome twice as a tourist from Argentina, and is said even to have visited Keppeler in prison. The colonel was given a life sentence for the massacre after the war.

Herr Priebke appeared impassive yesterday, dressed in a dapper grey suit and only occasionally betraying nerves by chewing on a finger. He made notes in a leather-bound notebook, with his lawyer, Velio di Rezze, and an interpreter at his side. The legal team and two carabinieri largely shielded Herr Priebke from the gaze of victims' relatives crowded into the small stuffy courtroom in Rome's main barracks. One woman fainted from a combination of emotion and heat.

Both defence and prosecution lawyers asked for the hearing to be moved to a larger courtroom, but the presiding judge said none was available at short notice. Journalists and some of the victims' relatives were obliged to watch the proceedings on closed-circuit television in an adjoining room.

The opening of the trial was largely taken up with procedural wrangling over whether representatives of Italian Jews seeking compensation from Herr Priebke could attend. Signor di Rezze said the "astronomical" claims were placing an unfair burden on his client, Agostino Quistelli, the judge, overruled him. The prosecution will make its opening statement tomorrow, when the hearing resumes.

Brains of children murdered by Nazis for 'idiocy' finally laid to rest

BY ROGER BOYES

VICTIMS

A BIZARRE funeral yesterday of pickled brains of handicapped children murdered by the Nazis has stirred up a national debate about the significance of euthanasia.

Mercy killing has been one of the most powerful taboo subjects in modern Germany because of Hitler's extermination of about 100,000 physically and mentally handicapped adults and 5,000 similarly

afflicted children. On Tuesday in Bonn, demonstrators in wheelchairs shouted and jeered, and tried to storm a building to protest against Peter Singer, an Australian philosopher who has raised the question whether seriously handicapped children have an automatic right to life.

Christian Democratic deputies

joined in the protest. "If Peter Singer argues that infants do not have any basic right to life and that parents should be allowed to kill their children, then we Germans have to be particularly alert," said Hubert Huppert, one of the deputies. Demonstrations against Professor Singer, whose book *How Are We To Live* has just appeared in German, have been staged throughout the country.

However, it was yesterday's Ham-

burg funeral that caused the greatest shockwaves. The brains of hundreds of mentally handicapped children killed by the Nazis have been stored in the cellar of Vienna's main psychiatric clinic. Since the Second World War, Austrian neurologists have used them for research, but many have been forgotten. Each jar is labelled with the victim's name, date of death and usually the diagnosis "idiocy".

Yesterday ten brains, each in a

wooden box, were laid to rest in the Scholl memorial grave in Hamburg; the others will be cremated in Vienna. No other body parts remain. Some German relations have been traced and they attended yesterday's ceremony.

Professor Singer seemed bemused after police detained 40 handicapped protesters who had tried to disrupt a Bonn news conference, adding: "I am sure this is all because of Germany's past."

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Mayor lies low as US capital decays

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ELEVEN days after Marion Barry announced he was starting a week's retreat to seek "spiritual and physical renewal", Washington's flamboyant black Mayor was still holed up in Missouri yesterday.

America's collapsing capital remained leaderless and speculation about what had really caused his sudden flight continued to swirl around its run-down, pot-holed streets.

There have been reports that before his departure Mr Barry had once again begun frequenting nightclubs and cruising the city in the small hours of the morning: the sort of conduct that led to the three-term Mayor's arrest and imprisonment for cocaine abuse in 1990.

There have been reports that the man who staged one of the most remarkable comebacks of modern American politics by regaining his old office in 1994 was back on drugs and alcohol. It has been rumoured that his two-year-

old marriage was in trouble and that he tried to commit suicide late last month. There have even been suggestions that he had agreed to step down as Mayor in return for federal investigators dropping two investigations of alleged financial wrongdoing.

Mr Barry or his spokesmen have denied these reports, and the FBI has reportedly found nothing to substantiate tips alleging the Mayor was back on drugs. But one of his closest friends, a boxing promoter named Rock Newman, fanned speculation by publicly urging Mr Barry to resign so he could focus on "a battle for personal survival". Asked if Mr Barry was back on drugs, Mr Newman hesitated and then refused to answer.

Mr Barry's own explanation, which apparently satisfied no one, was that he was exhausted by the burden of running a city near bankruptcy and had not fully recovered from a prostate cancer opera-

tion last December. The burdens have certainly been great. When Mr Barry returned to office in January last year, the 60-year-old Mayor was forced to disclose that the city he had run for 12 of the previous 16 years faced a \$722 million (£491 million) deficit and was virtually broke.

Washington's grand monuments now obscure a capital in deep distress. Property prices are falling. The city has the highest Aids rate and second-highest murder rate in the country. The police are demoralised and so short of money that officers have had to buy petrol for their cars.

Time magazine recently renamed the District of Columbia the "district of calamity". Harry Jaffe, editor of the Washingtonian magazine, is tired of Mr Barry's continuing public struggle to overcome his past addictions. The real question, he suggested, was: "At what point do we kick the habit of Marion Barry?"



Hezbollah commandos attend a festival in Beirut to honour "martyrs" killed while fighting the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon

Israelis reject UN blame for Qana massacre

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

ISRAELI last night dismissed as "absurd" a United Nations report claiming it was unlikely that the shelling which caused last month's massacre of more than 100 civilians in Qana, south Lebanon, was accidental. The Israelis also accused the UN of harbouring armed Hezbollah fighters at the base where it took place.

Israeli army officials showed journalists footage from a pilotless Israeli reconnaissance aircraft or "drone" which they said disproved allegations that artillery had been deliberately aimed at the camp where hundreds of civilians were sheltering on April 18.

Earlier, Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, the Israeli Chief of Staff, said that "only a twisted mind could believe Israel set out deliberately to fire on the UN camp at Qana".

Israeli officials said the evidence shown to reporters yesterday had been ignored by UN investigators, "maybe because the UN has tough questions to answer about how come... those Hezbollah terrorists felt so at home in the compound of the UN".

Leaked video footage shot by a UN soldier showing an Israeli drone flying close to

Qana formed the basis of the critical report prepared for Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General. Israel insists that the drone was sent close to the camp only after it had been hit by shells.

Yesterday it emerged that Israeli intelligence claimed to have determined from funeral records that two Hezbollah guerrillas were among the dead in the base. The UN report said that guerrillas had fired three volleys of shells from near the base shortly before the Israeli attack. Two or three Hezbollah men then ran into the compound to join their families.

Privately, UN investigators are convinced that Israel knew at the time of the attack that the Hezbollah guerrillas had fled into the compound. The Israelis have denied this. The UN investigation indicated that Israel had fired anti-personnel shells into the base while artillery normally used to destroy equipment was launched at the Hezbollah mortar position.

The UN's unusual decision to publish the results of its investigation in full sparked a diplomatic dispute yesterday, with America denouncing the report's findings.

Minstrel cabaret stops the show at black summit

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

TWO top international travel companies that offered a black and white minstrel-style show to leaders of an African-American summit in Senegal are being sued for \$5 million (£3.3 million).

The crooning cabaret led to a near riot and the performers were ushered off stage amid allegations from the Americans that the "politically incorrect" show was not acceptable.

Club Med and American Express Travel are being sued in a New York court by the conference organisers. The International Foundation for Education and Self-Help and the African-American Summit, which invited prominent American blacks to Senegal for a week of political discussion, said that the Al Jolson-style show had caused "shock, humiliation, anger and outrage".

The cabaret was held last May at the Club Med Village in Les Almadies before an audience of 700 delegates, many of them black American civil rights activists. The 5,000-strong conference included the Rev Jesse Jackson and Ronald Brown, the late US Commerce Secretary.

Two white singers appeared on stage, their faces blacked-up and lips emboldened with red paint. They blinked their eyes in wonder and emphasised their "Ds". The minstrels were mid-way through their second number when they were directed to leave the stage by the Rev Leon H. Sullivan, president of the International Foundation. Mr Sullivan, whose Sullivan Principles are credited with



Minstrel show: few laughs at summit

helping to dismantle apartheid in South Africa, is a plaintiff in the suit filed this week in a New York federal court.

On the night of the show he was given an on-the-spot apology by Club Med managers, but now fears that repercussions from the incident "tainted much of what was achieved" at the conference, which was held to discuss the economic development of sub-Saharan Africa.



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Pneumonia is no longer a melodramatic disease

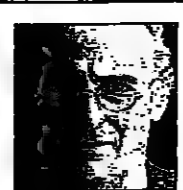
At death's door

THERE are two principal types of pneumonia, lobar and broncho. Although broncho-pneumonia is more common and is the result of an extension of the inflammation from bronchitis into the neighbouring lung, lobar pneumonia still affects one in a thousand people every year.

Before antibiotics altered its pattern, lobar pneumonia was a ready source of drama for authors. Usually one entire lobe of the lung is infected, but if the drama needed to be heightened the two lobes could be involved and the plot would contain dark references to double pneumonia. Lobar pneumonia often starts in a patient who already has a cold. The attack begins with shivering and develops into a high fever, with pain on breathing, breathlessness and a cough which produces a rusty coloured sputum. Lobar pneumonia was a melodramatic disease because it ran a relentless predictable course which, before antibiotics, doctors were powerless to influence.

The patient became progressively worse until the crisis point, when there was either sudden resolution or death. One evening a patient would appear to be at death's door, with a temperature of up to 105, delirious, with a racing pulse and a painful cough. Next morning, if he or she survived the crisis, the patient would be virtually free of the high temperature, lucid but weak, and often asking the gathered relatives what all the fuss was about.

The most common organism to be found in the case of lobar pneumonia is the pneumococcus. Although the classic picture



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

of pneumococcal lobar pneumonia is now rarely seen, as antibiotics prescribed early on prevent the classic disease, the infection is still a potential killer. Lobar pneumonia is particularly lethal when the patients are young, elderly or have a diminished resistance. One complication, pneumococcal meningitis, is more likely to cause lasting brain damage than meningococcal meningitis, but more often the pneumococcus is responsible for acute or chronic ear infections, and occasionally pleurisy or lung abscesses.

Dr John Simpson, a consultant in communicable diseases in West Sussex, writing in *Pulse* magazine, has reviewed the situation in regard to immunisation against pneumococcal infections. It is recommended that all patients over the age of two who have had a spleen removed should have immunisation against pneumococcus. A doctor who failed to advise his patient to have this injection was recently sued. Other groups in whom vaccination is essential are those with chronic kidney disease and patients who are immunodeficient, either because of disease or because of drugs they are taking, particularly steroids. It is also recommended for patients with chronic heart, lung and liver disease and those suffering from diabetes.

There are 84 different types of pneumococcus and the vaccine only covers the patient against 23. But this does include the ten varieties which cause 70 per cent of the disease. Only one injection is needed except in patients without a spleen, or who have some forms of severe kidney disease; they need a booster after every five to ten years.

The trace element for young and old



THE large number of octogenarians in some Norfolk churchyards has been attributed to the high level of selenium found in local soil, and therefore in home-grown vegetables and wholemeal flour. Selenium is a trace element which has antioxidant powers capable, it is suggested, of stopping free radicals damaging DNA.

Research published in the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* has investigated selenium's influence when the embryo is still in the uterus. Vets have been giving selenium supplements to sheep for some years to reduce spontaneous abortion, but nobody had studied its effect in women. The research team found that selenium levels were significantly lower in women who had had a miscarriage in the first three months of pregnancy than those in control groups.

In a review of the research, *Monitor*, a journal for GPs, recommends against selenium supplements in pregnancy until more detailed research has been completed.

Out of sight and out of mind



GHOST stories which owe their origins to hallucinations in an elderly patient with Lewy body dementia, or hypnagogic dreams, experienced at the moment the patient drops off to sleep, have received publicity recently. *The Lancet* has now published research into another group of patients who have visual hallucinations. These people are elderly and near blind, but psychologically well orientated and without evidence of delusions or signs of dementia.

A feature of the hallucinations was that the patients had an understanding of them, and however real the images they experienced seemed, they were never in any doubt that they were hallucinations. The association of visual handicap and hallucinations, described as Bonner's Syndrome, is more common than supposed. Dutch doctors surveyed 505 visually handicapped patients and found that sensory deprivation had induced these hallucinations in 12 per cent.



Prunella Briance launched the NCT after her daughter was stillborn: "I have always been very strong, but that experience knocked me down"

Birth of a natural idea

The National Childbirth Trust was launched 40 years ago. Aileen Ballantyne talks to its founder, Prunella Briance

Prunella Briance, aged 70, founder of the National Childbirth Trust, has an important question when we meet in her West London home. "Do you have a daughter?" she asks. No, I say, I have a son. "That's a pity," she replies, "because it's so important that all mothers should pass on to their daughters that childbirth is a joyous thing, and not something to be feared."

She clearly has a mission to ensure that every woman she meets is imbued, as she is, with supreme confidence in a woman's ability to take charge of the birth of her child and do it successfully.

She founded the trust — which celebrated its 40th anniversary last week — with an advertisement in the personal columns of *The Times* on May 4, 1956. She cheerfully bounds up three flights of her narrow four-storey terrace home to show it to me. The main people, then, who seemed in need of teaching were doctors and midwives, if Mrs Briance's recollections are

anything to go by. Despite the clipped Enid-Blytonesque style of her first newsletter for the Natural Childbirth Association (as it was then called), it contains the basis of the modern NCT and the "woman-centred" care that is now official Government policy.

"We are training mothers precisely for birth. She will know the squatting position, lying back on pillows at an angle of 45 degrees as shown in *Antenatal Illustrated*, she will have been trained for this and her training would be completely wasted if, at the moment of birth, she were forbidden to use it, denied cushions, or turned on her side for delivery, which is a frequent custom."

She feels childbirth is a natural skill which we are still today in great danger of losing. Yet her vibrant ability to pass on confidence in it is born not of joyous personal experience, but of enormous sadness. The events that led her to found the NCT began when her second child, a daughter, was stillborn after a birth she believes to have been mishandled by staff at a London hospital in 1955.

Her first child, Richard, was born in Cyprus in 1953 in a planned Caesarean birth — performed because of a condition known as placenta praevia. Determined to have a natural birth second time around, she found out about the principles of the natural childbirth pioneer, Dr Grandy Dick-Read, who believed that fear heightened the pain of childbirth: fear led to tension, and tension to pain.

Mrs Briance said she was following Dr Dick-Read's principles herself successfully and painlessly during this second birth until the healthcare staff intervened. "A young midwife gave me a leg-up on to a delivery bed no bigger than an ironing board and managed to drop me quite heavily in the process. I was then told 'hurry up, we can't be here all night'. From then on, lying in that position, flat on my back with no cushions, it was like trying to give birth uphill. Then the baby — a little girl — was born dead. I have always been a very strong person, but that whole experience really knocked me down for a time," she says.

Rather than allowing her grief to turn in on itself, she wrote the advertisement that led to the birth of the NCT. Between offers of tickets for Wimbledon's Centre Court and private Russian lessons, it read: "A natural childbirth association is to be formed 'for the promotion and better understanding of the DICK-READ system'. Anyone interested write Box T.257."

In 1957, before moving temporarily to America to allow her diplomat husband to take up a post at the British Embassy, she further came to terms with her sadness when she adopted her daughter, Alimary. "I found her at a foster home in north London — and she looked at me with her brown eyes. The home said she was booked for a family in South Africa. I argued that no-one could take a child without seeing her first, and asked them to tell the



In the Fifties, with son and adopted daughter

mother my story. In the end, the mother said she wanted me to have her. The staff asked me if I wanted to know details of Alimary's medical history, but I only wanted to ask the mother, through them, about the birth. She said it was an easy birth and commented 'she came out like a champagne cork'.

"In America, groups like the NCT were studying evidence that certain disorders were caused during traumatic births. I don't know how hard that evidence is. All I know is that Alimary has always been a tremendous joy."

She refuses to dwell on the small number of births where things can go wrong. "The worst thing any older woman can do is to tell a younger woman horror stories about birth," she says. She is, how-

ever, scathing on the generalities of the worst types of birth which prevailed in the late 1950s, particularly in America, where she lived for three years. "I once went into a ward and saw six women lying, knocked out and trussed up like turkeys, waiting to be delivered by the doctor before he went off for his afternoon's golf."

In London, she says, things were little better. She was told by a matron when she was three months pregnant that she was going to be examined internally by a group of medical students. "There were 13 of them and when I objected the matron said, 'This is the

National Health Service and you do as you are told.' Thankfully, probably because I objected, only one of them examined me."

In births with no complications — which she estimates at 96 per cent of all births — Mrs Briance believes women should be able to give birth in a quiet, unhurried way with minimal interruptions. Pain relief should be available but only if the woman wants it. "My father was the youngest of 19 children, born to two mothers, all of them naturally. They were born all over the British Empire in different places. In those days, before birth was medicalised, women knew how to give birth and knew how to get medical help if they needed it. Once doctors start intervening routinely it leads to tension and to pain. Many of the scientific advances we have now are truly amazing — but we should be careful that in using the new skills we don't lose the old ones."

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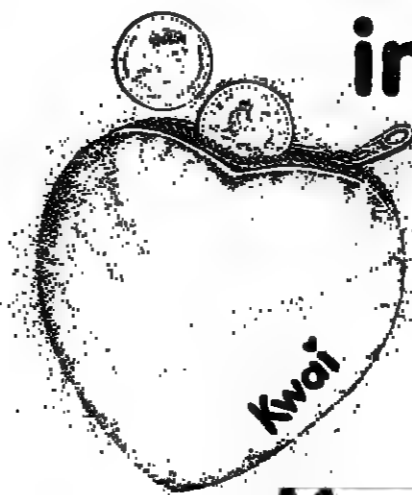
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The battle for Doris's fortune

Five thirty on the morning of October 28, 1993, was a good moment in the life of Bernard Lafferty, a pony-tailed, illiterate Irish drunk with a taste for cruising the gay bars of LA: it was the moment when Doris Duke died.

As she did so, she bequeathed him a sum of \$5 million (£3.3 million) and an annual stipend of \$500,000 for life. She also left him in charge of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Lafferty, who had been Miss Duke's butler, began celebrating in characteristic fashion. He bought flowers for his boyfriend and for Elizabeth Taylor, and spent \$2,000 having his hair tinted "Doris Duke Blonde". He used \$54,000 of foundation money to buy a Cadillac, which soon afterwards he drove over three cars parked on Sunset Boulevard.

He bought himself long gowns, snakeskin boots and a \$3,000 gold bracelet — presumably so that he would do justice to the gilt throne and dais which he had installed in Doris Duke's old bedroom.

But now, two and a half years on, his party may be drawing to a close, thanks to the testimony of Colin Shanley, Ann Bostich and Mariano De Velasco — respectively chef, housekeeper and caretaker at Falcon's Lair, Doris's Beverly Hills mansion — and the determination of Raymond Dowd, the fledgling 31-year-old lawyer who is representing them.

The three staff have provided a chilling chronicle of Lafferty's conduct in those final months, during which, they allege, he prevented Doris from seeing or speaking to members of her family, arranged for her to alter her will in his favour at a time when she barely knew what she was doing, and, finally, on the evening of October 27, 1993, declared: "Miss Duke is going to die tonight" — a prophecy which he is said to have helped to fulfil by having her body pumped full of morphine.

Hours after her "natural" death, Lafferty had his employer cremated, thereby eliminating any chance of an irksome post-mortem.

When Colin Shanley began making sworn statements about these and other unorthodox aspects of Lafferty's behaviour, the former butler responded by hiring a lawyer, Howard Weitzman, whose previous clients have included John DeLorean and O.J. Simpson.

Shanley was not in the same league, indeed, he had barely dealt with a lawyer in his life. But he did know one. In 1985, he had been employed at The Inn, Quogue, on Long Island. One of the waiters had been a college student called Ray Dowd who was doing vacation work to pay his tuition fees.

Several years later, Shanley received a letter from Dowd saying that he had just established his own law practice in New York. Shanley got in touch.

Initially, Dowd was sceptical, warning Shanley that his only experience of criminal law had been gained at law school. Nevertheless, he agreed to fight

Marcus Scriven investigates the intriguing case of the the doomed heiress, the suspicious lawyer and the manservant who inherited millions

Shanley's case of unfair dismissal. Since then, however, it has escalated to the extent that a jury may be called upon to decide whether or not Doris Duke was murdered.

And Dowd appears to be winning, to the astonishment and delight of Pony Duke, Doris's godson and the son of her cousin, Angier Duke. "Ray Dowd is fighting for justice," says Duke. "He's taken on all the dragons here, with no money, he's been disgustingly honest and he's given his opponents all fits. He has an office about the size of your bathroom and he's up against about 30 attorneys."

Dowd notched up his latest triumph on Tuesday in the Surrogate Court, Manhattan, where he persuaded the judge to reject a

proposal by which Lafferty would have relinquished his position as Doris Duke's executor and as head of the foundation, in return for keeping his hands on his \$5 million and annual \$500,000 handout.

The young attorney's own proposal, as an interim settlement, is that a member of the Duke family should be appointed as head of Doris's charitable foundation. If he succeeds in this, he will bring the Duke family back from the margins of Doris's life, to which it seemed to have been permanently exiled since February 1993.

It was then that Doris rang her cousin, Angier Duke, the former head of protocol at the White House during the Kennedy presidency, asking him to find her a new, "honest and capable" lawyer.

He responded by sending Doris a fax recommending that she use his son Pony's lawyer. He concluded

by telling her that he was planning to go to Japan in mid-April and suggested that, if she were at either of her residences in Los Angeles or Hawaii, he might stop en route to see her.

In fact, neither he nor any other member of the family was to speak to Doris again, let alone visit her, in what, it transpired, were to be the last eight months of her life.

Nor did Doris ever take on a new lawyer. Instead, just a few weeks later, in April 1993, her old lawyer, William Doyle, helped her to sign a new will in extraordinary circumstances.

According to Ann Bostich: "Miss Duke's bed was raised so that she was in an upright position; she was not talking, moving or even looking at anyone. Doyle gave



Rich, spoilt, doomed: Doris Duke is said to have fallen completely under the control of her butler



The butler: Lafferty was made rich by Doris's death

Initially, according to Shanley, Lafferty had a "very limited role". But, as Doris weakened, Lafferty increased his influence. After a while, he felt able to ignore Doris's requests. Until then, Doris had always had her own way. As soon as she was born, she had a principal nanny, a personal maid, a clothing maid, a laundress and four nurses, three bodyguards, and a chauffeur for her own Rolls-Royce.

She was 12 when her father died, bequeathing her, his only child, \$100 million. Thereafter, if she wanted something, she bought it — whether it was a house, an aeroplane or a lover.

At the end, though, her whims remained unanswered. Aside from monitoring her telephone calls, Lafferty eliminated "unwanted" visitors, among them Doris's nephew, Walker Inman.

Walker had left his car at Doris's, explains Pony Duke. "He went back to collect it and they wouldn't let him in. They actually had the car wheeled outside the gates."

Then, on October 27, 1993, the butler held a meeting with Charles Kivowitz, Doris's doctor, Henry Glassman, her plastic surgeon, and William Doyle, the lawyer who had so considerably guided Doris's hand. After the meeting, Doris was repeatedly injected with morphine by Dr Kivowitz, in order to relieve her pain, he said. She died at 5.30 on the following morning.

Shortly afterwards, Lafferty called Angier Duke. "She died early this morning," the butler said. "She was not in pain."

When Angier asked when the funeral service would be held, Lafferty replied: "No, we don't intend on having a service. She didn't want a service."

Angier was left to ponder what kind of servant would use the phrase "we don't intend on having a service". The answer became apparent when the will was read.

It would, perhaps, be fitting if it were Angier who dislodged Lafferty as head of his cousin's charitable trust. But that is no longer possible. Some 18 months after Doris's death, Angier, 78, clamped on his Sony Walkman and headed out onto the streets to indulge his latest passion — rollerblading. He probably never heard the car that killed him.

Consequently, his son Pony may take his place, should Ray Dowd have his way. Such an appointment would have a pleasing symmetry: Pony's godmother did him many favours in his youth which at the time he did not quite appreciate. For his twenty-first birthday, she gave him a pair of sapphire cufflinks; he lost them. Later, in 1960, he stayed with Doris in Paris.

Duke does not expect the former butler to go quietly. "He got a taste of power and got used to it. I think he's a very bitter man."

And of the man responsible for that, Ray Dowd, the former Long Island waiter? "This case is going to establish him," says Duke, "as long as he's not assassinated."

A diplomat must think twice before saying nothing

This latest *démarche* about British and Russian spies has turned an inappropriate searchlight on the jargon of diplomacy. Other sectional vocabularies seek to convey information. However, the fine art of diplomacy is to say nothing — particularly when being interviewed. Diplomatspeak is an international but tribal code of language perfected over centuries.

Philip Howard on a language that speaks volumes to the initiated while baffling outsiders

Like masonic rituals and pretentious art catalogues, it speaks volumes to the initiated, while baffling outsiders. It is designed to make others believe that you believe what you don't believe. To guide outsiders through the maze of Diplomatspeak, here are some notes on the jargon by the Chief of Protocol and Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps. These are aimed at diplomats who are now expected to communicate not just with fellow-diplomats (who are native to Diplomatspeak and to the mannerism born) but with the general public as well.

A1. As a spokesman for the Foreign Office (State Department/Qual d'Orsay/Foreign Ministry) your duty is to think twice before saying nothing.

B1. To this end, chameleon words are useful. A chameleon is the opposite to a weasel word. A weasel word (eg, situation, parameter, objective, subjective) sucks the meaning out of the words to which it is attached, as a weasel sucks eggs. A chameleon word changes its colour to conform to the prejudices of the reader or listener.

B2. For example, "appropriate" is an ideal diplomatic screen. HMG's responses are by definition appropriate. "In



A way with words: Sir Alec Douglas-Home in his heyday

appropriate cases" means "whenever we feel like doing it". Similar words such as "right", "proper", "suitable" and "fitting" are too definite for Diplomatspeak. "Appo-

sile" is a learned synonym, usually mispronounced with stress on the last syllable to avoid confusion with "opposite".

C1. Diplomatspeak is as

rich as the jargon of estate agents in its meaningful euphemisms. "Full and frank" — a bloody good row. "Business-like" — cold, unfriendly. "Matters of mutual interest" — areas where we disagree.

"The Foreign Secretary expressed his concern" — we don't like this one little bit. "With the full co-operation of our allies" — this is one where we have gone it alone. "Protracted" — this one will run and run. "Recalled for consultations" — we're going to get you for this. "A difficult situation" — they are bombing our embassy. "It is well-known that..." — and here comes another economy with the truth.

D1. In these undifferentiated times, use the rule of inverse naming. Patronise your interviewers by getting in first with their first names. "Fred, Samantha..." as though

speaking to a retarded four-year-old. Then freeze them by switching to handle and surname: "Mr Scorp, Ms Pencil."

D2. In Diplomatspeak, yes means perhaps. Perhaps means no. And if you say no,

you are no diplomat. Diplomacy is the art of skating on thin ice without getting into hot water. For diplomats are for averting inappropriate situations that would never occur if there were no diplomats.

How near we are to the cure... depends on you

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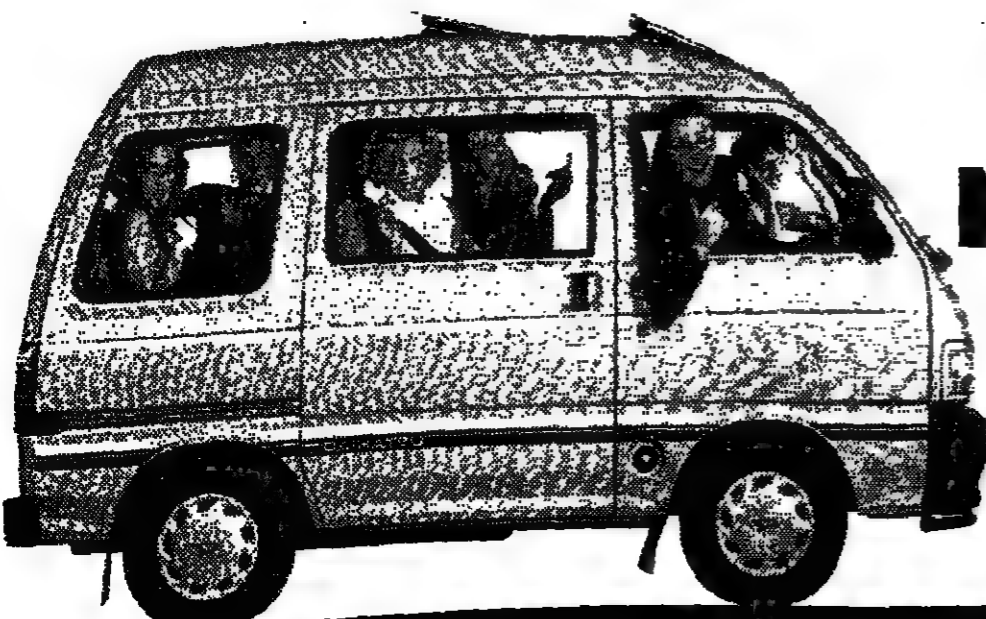
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Should auld Unionism be forgot?

Magnus Linklater on a dissident at the Scottish Tory conference

It seemed easy enough to define English nationalism last weekend from the back of a lawnmower in a Gloucestershire garden. Although I could not quite detect what Stanley Baldwin called "the sound of the scythe on the whetstone, and the sight of the plough team coming over the brow of the hill", there were still hamlets of Cotswold stone nestling in green folds, black-thorn hedges in flower, doves cooing on cottage roofs, and that modern equivalent of the scythe — the strimmer — hard at work rooting out the nasty bits. Those images still seem to capture the essence of Englishness. Others see in English nationalism only the nasty bits: larger louts in Union Jack shorts, truculence, distrust of foreigners, the shabbiness of city life.

Neither stereotype, of course, entirely fits the bill, and the truth is that for donkey's years no one has felt the need to define it at all. Englishness and Britishness have been more or less synonymous, at least south of the border. Only the other day, on the *Today* programme, I heard the terms interchanged in the course of a single sentence.

But that may no longer be good enough. The more talk there is of nationalism in Scotland, the more it drifts south. A recent spate of articles has explored the idea that moves towards autonomy in Scotland could encourage an equal and opposite reaction in England.

So far, however, the idea that separatism might have anything to do with Toryism has been confined to the ranks of maverick right-wing backbenchers. But it has been given unexpected spin this week in a book by the former Scottish Office minister Allan Stewart, MP for Eastwood. Mr Stewart has an advantage not shared by his fellow Tories north of the border, a comfortable majority of more than 11,000. By publishing his views on nationalism on the eve of the Scottish Conservative Party Conference which opens today in Aberdeen, he has ensured that they will be widely discussed.

He argues that independence for Scotland would benefit the Conservative Party both north and south of the border. While Unionism is worth fighting for, he does not believe that surrendering it would be a disaster. Scottish Tories would be freed from the taint of Englishness and could regain the centre-right ground which they have lost over the past 20 years, while in England Tories would once again be the natural party of government. Mr Stewart envisages what might happen if Labour wins the next election committed to introducing a Scottish parliament. Business and industry, he claims, would be driven away by a high-tax regime, and the result would be to send the Scots further down the road to complete independence. "A swift move from devolution to separation might

occur in any event, even during the next parliament," he writes.

And that, he argues, would play into the hands of a Conservative Party offering low taxes and sound economic policies. "The party advantage in England is obvious," says Mr Stewart. "Without Labour's Scottish majority to contend with, the Conservatives would have a much higher chance of obtaining control at Westminster."

This is not a wholly new idea, and it sounds suspiciously like one advanced recently by Lord McAlpine, the former party treasurer and confidant of Margaret Thatcher. He too appeared sanguine about the idea of independence, and thought it would greatly benefit the party.

Headly as all this talk may sound, and superficially attractive to the beleaguered Tories arriving in Aberdeen this morning, it is built on a fallacy. The proposition that a separated Scotland would turn readily to a right-wing brand of Conservatism is, at best, wishful thinking. Scotland may not be as naturally left-wing as some Labour politicians believe, but it is hardly fertile territory for neo-Thatcherism, as the present Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, knows all too well.

There is an element of mischief-making here. By polarising the debate between Unionism and independence, by claiming that devolution would simply place Scotland on the slippery slope to separation, Mr Stewart and his colleagues on the Right are encouraging voters to opt for one of the two extremes, rather than the centre, where the majority rests at the moment.

But it is a specious case. When asked, and they have been asked repeatedly, the Scots patiently and routinely respond that they do not want independence. They want to stay within the Union; but they want a greater degree of control of their own affairs, and they believe that a parliament in Edinburgh offers just that. This is a sensible ambition. What is more, it is the best hope for the Conservatives in Scotland in their quest to reclaim the centre ground, not the Right. They might do very well in a devolved Scotland, taking part in a Scottish parliament and arguing their case from inside, rather than from the wings.

As for England, it surely stands to benefit more from continuance of the Union that has served it so well for the past 299 years than from a narrow and retrograde nationalism. Not long ago a thoughtful book about England, written by a Scot, Harry Reid, concluded with a sentence which gets it, in my view, about right: "As a Scot, I sense that England's nationhood is mainly behind it, while Scotland lies ahead. I have also to admit that we will be doing very well indeed if we do half as well as the English have already done."



"I believe this is an honest portrait and a good likeness...."

Jacques of all policies

Gordon Brown is offering to do here what President Chirac has done in France, and the result will be sclerosis

Sometimes Gordon Brown seems to be the Jacques Chirac of Britain, though, thank goodness, he is not going to be our president for the next six years. Both men have two-chamber minds in one chamber they keep one set of ideas, and in the other chamber they keep the opposite set of ideas. When they make speeches they draw alternately on each chamber, and mix the two gases in a lethal cocktail of total confusion. As a result no one can ever guess what it is either man will actually do, though the safe assumption is that neither will do what is needed.

On Tuesday, Gordon Brown was speaking in Bonn: "You cannot build a monetary union on doing nothing about 20 million unemployed," he said. As that is exactly what his German hosts are trying to do, that could be regarded as a healthy Euro-sceptic statement of reality. "Britain can no longer afford to stand and carp from the sidelines... we put our future in jeopardy by being on the outside." There is Gordon Brown's typical Chirac-like contradiction inside a single speech. On the one hand, the current European policy on monetary union has helped to create the Europe of 20 million unemployed, while British unemployment has been falling. On the other hand, Britain cannot afford to stand on the sidelines of this pool of unemployment. Jump in, Gordon, jump in.

We should briefly note that Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, is even more confused than the present Government on the single currency, and it may therefore be a mistake to give him, or his party, the power to decide the issue. But if Gordon Brown is confused, President Chirac remains the European grandmaster of incoherence, just as France remains the prime example of the disease of Euro-sclerosis. At the recent Group of Seven meeting at Lille, President Chirac solemnly talked of finding a third way between socialism and capitalism, which he distinguished from the wicked American approach of "hire and fire", in a sentence which gets it, in my view, about right: "As a Scot, I sense that England's nationhood is mainly behind it, while Scotland lies ahead. I have also to admit that we will be doing very well indeed if we do half as well as the English have already done."

President Chirac, who will be in Britain on a state visit next week, has now been in office for a year. He

started in great unpopularity — he had one of the shortest political honeymoons on record — but has now recovered somewhat in the opinion polls. Nevertheless, his first year has gone badly. His unnecessary nuclear tests alienated the Asian countries, except for China, which is equally willing to pollute the globe. The Chinese were, however, annoyed by the sale of French military aircraft to Taiwan. His most courageous minister, Alain Madelin, was sacked for his bravery because the public-sector unions did not like him.

Alain Juppé, Chirac's Prime Minister, fought and lost the battle of the December strikes, and will no doubt have to be replaced well before the next Assembly elections in two years' time — he has perhaps another year in office. Meanwhile the French economy shows the vices of European stagnation in their most extreme form. Unemployment now stands at 11.9 per cent. In a biting article in yesterday's *Wall Street Journal*, Jean-Pierre Robin of *Le Figaro* points out that since 1980 France has had the lowest annual growth rate of any G7 country, just 2.1 per cent.

The unemployment figure is even worse than it looks. France has very restrictive labour-market regulations; it is both hard and expensive to make people redundant. As a result, unemployment is higher among the young than the old. One quarter of French workers under the age of 25 are unemployed, and 40 per cent of them have been out of work for more than a year. Around Paris, in the said working-class suburbs which form a circle of poverty around the wealth of the capital, unemployment among the young men has reached at least 30 per cent, a recipe for riots, and a recruiting sergeant for the Far Right.

This high unemployment is not an accident or a misfortune, but the natural consequence of the deliberate policies of successive French govern-

ments, of the Bank of France and the whole French political class, who had put the supposed interests of the French State ahead of the real interests of the French people. The State is a colossal consumer of French resources, taking 55 per cent of France's gross national product. No wonder, with that overhead, the French economy is overloaded by the bureaucrats' lead a wonderful life.

That is not all. To support this extraordinary burden, French business has to pay extraordinary taxes. Germany also suffers from the European disease of high costs, high taxes and high welfare charges, as even Herr Kohl admits. Yet as Denis Kessler, the vice-president of France's equivalent of Britain's CBI, has stated: "We estimate that French businesses pay 450 billion francs — six per cent of GDP — more in taxes than their German counterparts." When the State over-taxes business, it creates the conditions for high unemployment.

The Bank of France, one of those central banks which believe that deflation is the best medicine for high unemployment, has made its own contribution. France has pegged an overvalued franc to an overvalued mark, leading to the export of jobs and capital from France as well as Germany. In order to keep the franc overvalued, the Bank has maintained real interest rates, after allowing for inflation, at an average of 6 per cent over the past four years. That is highly deflationary.

If one had to devise a policy for stagnation, it would include these elements: high government expenditure, preferably more than 50 per cent of GNP; an overvalued currency; high real interest rates; high taxes and high costs in business; a regulated and immobile labour market; a large bureaucratic public sector

with low productivity, protected against competition. All of these handicaps have been consciously created or sedulously maintained in France. They have produced low growth and high unemployment, as any competent economist would have forecast.

In one of the chambers of his paradoxical mind, President Chirac knows all this. At the election he promised reform, but he fired the only senior minister who believed in it. This week he has been writing in *Le Monde*. Some of what he says is excellent stuff. France must move from "a culture of assistance" to "a culture of responsibility". I'm never quite sure what the grander French phrases mean, but I think he is really saying that Lee Kuan Yew is right about the impending bankruptcy of the European welfare system. "In a country like ours, where recourse to the State is second nature, it is necessary to accomplish a revolution in thinking... reform requires concentration, teaching, explanation."

Reform also requires the right policies. If Europe is to meet global competition, in which the EU is failing so badly, the policies need to be the exact reverse of those which have made France the citadel of stagnation. Jobs need to be created, as they have been in America. That requires a free labour market. The low productivity of the public sector can be put right only by privatisation. Business taxes are costs, and like other costs they should be reduced to a minimum. Personal savings need to be raised closer to the Asian level.

If Europe is to be competitive, all of the intolerable handicaps need to be removed. The example of the most competitive world economies is clear enough. But there is a European mentality which regards competitive policies as Thatcherite, Anglo-Saxon, right-wing, uncompassionate and so on. The trouble with President Chirac is that half the time he does not believe what he says, and half the time he does not do what he believes. The same seems to be true of Gordon Brown. That is why their speeches are internally so inconsistent. The high-overhead, corporatist, high-cost, high-unemployment Europe which they sometimes criticise and sometimes accept is a dodo economy: the fat bird cannot run and cannot fly, and is doomed to become extinct.

Mr Blair and the mandarins

Labour won't talk to Whitehall, says Sue Cameron

Whitehall's high-flyers are feeling a little low. Tony Blair's successes in the local elections merely emphasised that Labour isn't talking. Not to senior civil servants. And the sound of Labour's silence is causing unease in the corridors of power.

At the start of this year, the Government changed the rules that allow Whitehall to open its doors to members of the Shadow Cabinet. The convention is that within six months of an election, senior Opposition people are permitted to start formal meetings with the permanent secretaries, the Civil Service heads of government departments. This time round, Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary and head of the home Civil Service, persuaded the Prime Minister to allow the meetings to start much earlier than usual: 15 months before the last date for the election.

All credit to Sir Robin and John Major — though it should be stressed that civil servants and shadow ministers are not meant to discuss Labour policy when they meet under official auspices. They are supposed to restrict themselves to talking about organisational changes that Labour ministers might want. But in real life, organisational changes are inextricably linked to policy plans. Using hypothetical examples, the mandarins can discuss any number of policy proposals while contriving to stay within the rules.

Meetings between Labour and the permanent secretaries sound like a consummation devoutly to be wished by both sides. However good Labour's own advisers may be, the party has nothing that quite matches the Whitehall machine. Mr Blair's team is one of the most inexperienced ever. Only half a dozen of its members have actually been in government. A whole generation of civil servants has risen since 1979, few of whom are on close personal terms with the new Labour generation.

Shadow ministers such as Harriet Harman and Donald Dewar have, it is true, been given courses at Templeton College, Oxford, by retired civil servants, and former permanent secretaries such as Sir Peter Kemp and Sir Nicholas Monck have been coaching Mr Blair's elite. There have been informal contacts with active civil servants, too. Earlier this spring, for example, Mr Blair had dinner with Sir Robin Butler and four of his most likely successors as head of the Civil Service.

So for the past four months, the permanent secretaries have been waiting eagerly for the Labour team to call formally. But Labour has not done so. Mr Blair has insisted that members of his Shadow Cabinet pass up the opportunity to learn first-hand about the departments they shadow and may soon run. Why?

Labour's official line is that meetings with permanent secretaries will soon be under way, and that they have been put off only because it is "clearly" better to hold them as close as possible to a general election. But civil servants are not at all clear about the benefits of delay — particularly as a snap election cannot be ruled out.

Privately, Labour leaders are giving Whitehall a rather different explanation. They say Mr Blair wants plans for the first two years of a Labour government to be in place before he allows his team to meet. Whitehall representatives say their policy proposals and to indicate their legislative priorities. This exercise is not yet finished.

Labour's excuse is that its vulnerability on policy requires every detail to be ready before civil servants are made privy to its plans. Timetabling of constitutional reform is an example. These measures could consume huge amounts of parliamentary time in the early days of a Labour government. Nothing is better guaranteed to dissipate the goodwill of England's 36 million voters than week after weary week of Westminster warfare over Scottish devolution.

Labour sources say the real reason for Mr Blair's circumspection is simple. Labour is worried about being shown up by officials-spotting the gaps and flaws in policy proposals. It fears that shadow ministers might slip something that would cause civil servants to wonder if the party is up to the job. And it is bothered about the Civil Service foisting its own ideas on the Opposition. Labour leaders are concerned that contact with Whitehall might force them to face up to the kind of policy decisions that could damage them electorally. Easier by far to delay the detailed discussions.

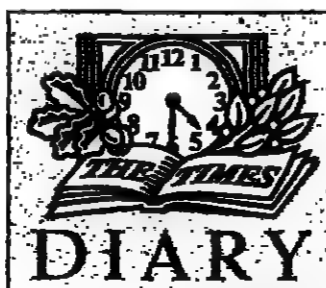
But some Labour insiders rightly believe that it would be better to be alerted to problems by Whitehall now than to wait until the election, when inconsistencies are likely to be ruthlessly exposed by the media and the Tories. Labour's present approach seems to be a fatal mixture of arrogance and timidity. Meanwhile, it would perk up the mandarins no end if Labour leaders were to take the initiative and meet the permanent secretaries. For all their intellectual brilliance, senior civil servants like being led from the front by people who know which way is forward.

New friends

HOTTEST new entrant in the race to be Best Friend to the Princess of Wales is the model Cindy Crawford. The two met last Thursday for a private drink in the mirrored, subterranean Dorchester bar in Park Lane. This follows Miss Crawford's dramatic intervention into the debate about the Princess and the cellulite, when she

declared at a handbag launch: "She hasn't got cellulite. It's a vicious rumour. In fact, she looks fantastic, and I can take some advice from her."

Miss Crawford makes a change from all the middle-aged therapists the Princess seems drawn to at the moment, and on paper the model-Princess axis looks good.



Miss Crawford is 30, the Princess is 34. Each has a failed marriage behind her, Miss Crawford having separated from the actor Richard Gere. They share an interest in intensive physical exercise and spiritualism, and both know something about posing for photographs. Last year, Miss Crawford gave Prince William the ultimate adolescent treat by visiting Kensington Palace to have tea with him.

"Cindy Crawford invited the Princess, and she went along," says a royal representative. "They have met a couple of times."

The Dorchester adds: "It was a very hush-hush meeting — and the staff were not really meant to know about it."

Good news from Harewood House, where Lord Harewood is recovering from his weekend jelly conference. Donald Trump, the

American property tycoon, was due to come to the house, near Leeds, as the top act at next week's Yorkshire Business Conference. "The Donald", however, was forced to withdraw, leaving the organisers struggling to find a replacement grand enough yet with time on his hands. Step forward, Lord Harewood, electrician, national hero, former President and now corporate cheerleader.

No joke

READERS of his diaries might have suspected it all along, but now Alan Clark, the former MP for Plymouth Sutton, has finally come out and said it. The bragging, self-styled lothario is impotent.

In an interview with John Humphrys, to be broadcast on Radio 4's *Against the Ropes* later this month, Clark admits to now being "completely impotent". Clark, who fathered two sons, and has written openly of his serial trouser-dropping and his fear of impotence — "that utterly negative feeling, void; zero between the loins" — was terse when asked about the matter. "You can regard it as an admission, a joke or a serious confession," he said, "suit yourself. In any case it's so housemaidly to get hung up about it."

"If people take everything that I say seriously," he added menacing-

ly, "they are going to end up getting knotted."

Busy? Never

YESTERDAY's unveiling of the latest painting of the Queen, by Antony Williams, has resurrected the curious question of John Major's apparent phobia about sitting for his portrait. Whenever the National Portrait Gallery asks for one, it is told that the Prime Minister is far too busy to sit. Curious, seeing as the Queen has managed to sit for more than 100 portraits.

"Time is running out for John

Major," warns Sir Hugh Leggart, former honorary adviser to the gallery. "A general election is at hand, and it would be pointless to paint him if he were no longer in office. The Queen is simply marvellous the way she is prepared to sit for artists time after time," he adds. "Why can't Major find the time?"

Former Chancellor of the Exchequer turned arch-Euro-sceptic, Norman Lamont has found himself a new car sticker to celebrate Europe Day today. It features the European flag with an X stamped across it.

College girl

ETON COLLEGE was the stop-off for Sir James Goldsmith's Euro-sceptic charabanc last week. Goldsmith was speaking to his alma mater's political society, although his rather jumpy Referendum Party first denied it flatly and then only reluctantly admitted the fact. His message went down well with his teenage audience, but it was overshadowed by the presence of his daughter, Jenna Khan, who inspired much hair-flicking and strutting among the boys. She is, apparently, just the sort of girl Etonians would choose.



The Princess and the supermodel: secret rendezvous

هكذا من الأصل



FLAUNT IT

From Royal Court to recording studio — a new age in our art

Deep among rehearsal rooms, recording studios and galleries throughout Britain there is the sense of renaissance. Because the British long ago turned self-deprecation into an art-form of its own, news of this has been diffuse. Its causes too are disputed. But it is there before us, in our theatre, our concert halls, on our radio stations and on film. Something is happening here. We should make sure that more people in more places know about it.

Why are new and better things happening? The millennium itself may not mean much; but its approach has released both money and ideas on how that money should be spent. If Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister, his policies towards the arts may be no different from that of the Conservatives; but the likelihood of a Labour Government after years of Tory rule inevitably raises hopes, at home and abroad. Commentators overseas already know how regularly Britain produces actors who bring back Oscars. They know of our musicals that run simultaneously and for ever in dozens of cities. But what makes London theatre so compelling today is not the impetus from the stars but that from the young playwrights who tackle contemporary themes with such verve.

Many of these brilliant talents have been nurtured by a Royal Court Theatre revitalised by the leadership of director Stephen Daldry. Playwrights Jez Butterworth, Jonathan Harvey and Sarah Kane (author of *Blasted*, which gave the Court its first genuine *succès de scandale* for years) have succeeded in doing what many thought was impossible. By depicting what our theatre critic Benedict Nightingale calls "weird, troubling city landscapes", these writers have persuaded young people to take notice of what is happening in the theatre for the first time in decades. If Hollywood's producers are searching for strong stories told in dialogue that crackles with pungent wit, they should book a season ticket in Sloane Square — and book early.

Alongside the new writers is an exceptional generation of British directors. Some, such as Katie Mitchell and Matthew Warchus, have yet to find international recognition. Others have already made the

transition to transatlantic fame. Nicholas Hytner directed *The Madness of George III* at the National and then on film. Jonathan Kent's staging of *Hamlet*, with Ralph Fiennes, leapt from the Hackney Empire to Broadway as if that were the most natural progression in the thespian world. Daldry himself had sensational success in New York with *An Inspector Calls*. Another Royal Court graduate, Danny Boyle, took Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting* — a funny, touching, frank account of drug addiction — and turned it into the cult success of the year.

The resurgence in British creativity extends beyond stage and screen. Damon Albarn, prime mover of Blur, may have declared that "Britpop as an idea is no longer valid". But Britpop as an export, potentially worth millions, has hardly started. For months the pundits fretted that the new British bands, burdened with lyrics full of very British ironies, would make no impact on the overseas market. Then Oasis took an album and two singles to the top of the American charts. Suddenly the Americans are more interested in our pop music than at any time since the 1960s.

Young British classical composers, James MacMillan, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Julian Anderson, have produced music that comprehensively banishes sterile, cerebral modernism in favour of a style which connects directly with grateful audiences. Passion is back in fashion. Something similar has happened in British contemporary art. Damien Hirst's penchant for pickled fish and stiff cows may be derided by some. But the mordant humour and eye-popping gestures favoured by Hirst, Mark Wallinger, Rachel Whiteread and their contemporaries have made them the finest group of young artists in the world.

It is hard to avoid comparisons with the early Sixties, that older era in which Britain cast off a prevailing sense of grey stagnation in politics as in culture. The parallels are not exact. The mood of the Sixties was swinging and wide-eyed; today's young artists are of a darker, warier disposition. They deal more in debris than dreams. But their talent is unquestionable, and their work powerful and provocative. They are here. We should flaunt them.

VANISHING TAX CUTS

The scope for cuts this autumn has shrunk to nothing

If there has been one consistent ingredient in the modern Tory general election victory, it has been the tax cut. No pre-election Budget has been complete without it; nor has any manifesto failed to contain the promise to cut taxes further. Tax cuts have even determined the timing of elections: indeed one of the strongest arguments this year for delaying the poll until next May has been that November's tax reductions will by then be appreciated and might even blot out the memory of earlier tax rises.

But a pause is necessary. Almost unnoticed, the Government's fiscal position has deteriorated so much that there may be no room for tax cuts this autumn. If so, the Tories' election campaign will have to be rethought. So may its timing. The Conservatives will no longer be able to rely on their most populist measure without risk of ruining the economy.

The stark figures tell the tale. Compared with the plans set out in the November 1994 Budget, the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) overshoot by an extraordinary £10.7 billion in 1995-96 — equivalent to five pence on or off the standard rate of income tax. The deficit of £32.2 billion (representing 4.5 per cent of GDP) compares with the Chancellor's 1994 forecast of £21.5 billion (3 per cent of GDP). It is even £3.2 billion greater than the forecast made as recently as last November. Moreover, the plan back in 1994 was that this year the PSBR would shrink to just 1.7 per cent of GDP, well within the Maastricht convergence criteria. Instead it looks set to be almost 4 per cent, far exceeding the Maastricht rules.

Responsible Eurosceptics have always believed that Britain should stay out of the European single currency because it could ruin its domestic policy better than Frankfurt or Brussels. But for Britain to find itself forcibly excluded, along with countries such as Italy and Greece, because its public finances were out of control would be another matter.

A large overshoot on the PSBR could expose a future Chancellor to pressure from the markets to abolish the pound and take orders from the European Central Bank.

How has this arisen? The main problem has been that tax revenue has collapsed. The three biggest sources of tax — income tax, corporation tax and VAT — between them undershot forecasts by nearly £10 billion last year. Half of this shortfall came from VAT alone.

In March, the Treasury told the Select Committee that much of the drop in expected receipts from income and corporation tax could be laid at the door of lower economic growth and subdued inflation. But they could not explain the vanishing VAT, and feared that it might never reappear. If the Government wants to bring its deficit under control, it will have to cut public spending or raise taxes by a substantial amount. The last thing it should do is to cut taxes unless it can clearly identify — and achieve — equal or greater reductions in spending.

The danger for the country is that Kenneth Clarke will not be able to resist pressure from his own party to deliver the tax reductions that have become traditional at this stage of the political cycle. Doubtless he would accompany them with talk about "cuts" in spending in the November Budget. Just as likely, an incoming Government would find itself in a position similar to that of 1993, when taxes had to be raised to pay for the overspending before the 1992 election.

More responsible right-wingers have heeded this message. John Redwood yesterday acknowledged that there was "very modest scope, if any, for tax reductions in the autumn". Others should follow his lead. Otherwise Mr Clarke will go down in history as the Chancellor who sacrificed fiscal rectitude for political advantage — and possibly even for no political advantage.

UNION JACQUES

The sad case of the European Union's second-hand standard

Today is, apparently, Europe Day. This event might have passed the great British public by, were it not for last week's little fuss when Michael Forsyth, supported by the Prime Minister, declared that in protest at the continued European Union ban on British beef, he would not permit the European Union flag of blue and gold to be flown from the Scottish Office today.

The impact of this announcement was somewhat diluted when it transpired that his department had never previously flown the EU colours on this occasion and had made no plans to do so anyway. But Mr Forsyth's quixotic gesture has drawn attention to a curious fact about the British. As a nation, we are relatively calm, even reticent, about displaying any flag, even our own.

The Union flag is flown on designated days but not with the gusto of the French, Italians or Americans whose public buildings and ordinary homes are frequently

festeoned with them. In this bashfulness Britain is joined by the nations of the Benelux and Scandinavia. Although the cause here may be fear of flying the flag upside down, in general it appears that those nations which already possess one powerful national symbol — the monarchy — have less need of another. For republics, by contrast, the flag may often be the lone representation of constitutional continuity.

But what of the EU flag that Mr Forsyth has so publicly disowned? In truth it has a rather sad history. It was not even specially designed: it was "borrowed" from the Council of Europe. More imagination is called for, now that Europe Day has been brought to our attention. There should be a competition for a flag to suit the Europe of today. A tricolour of suitably straight sausage, cucumber, and banana? The mad cow rampant? Or, best of all, a Union Jacques to accompany the EuroDelors.

Heath rebuttal on MPs' earnings

From Sir Edward Heath, MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup (Conservative)

Sir, The headline to your main news story today, "Heath heads MPs' defying earnings rule", is completely untrue and finds no justification even in your report which follows it. I have declined to conform with it, as the report goes on to make perfectly clear.

In his letter to all Members of Parliament in February this year the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Sir Gordon Downey, wrote:

"I would draw particular attention to the fact that the new Rules agreed by the House on 6th November 1985, which require that any Member who has entered into an agreement with an outside body involving the provision of services in his or her capacity as a Member of Parliament should deposit with me a copy of that agreement, including the annual fees or benefits payable in kind... [my italics]."

I have no agreements whatever, written or unwritten, involving the provision of services in my capacity as a Member of Parliament and no obligations of any kind to do so.

Sir Gordon goes on to quote from the report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life:

"The new requirement for employment agreements to be put in writing will apply principally to any arrangement whereby a Member may offer advice about parliamentary matters. We think it right, however, that it should also include frequent, as opposed to merely occasional, commitments outside Parliament which arise directly from membership of the House. For example, a regular, paid newspaper column or television programme would have to be the subject of a written agreement, but ad hoc current affairs or news interviews or intermittent panel appearances would not [my italics]."

I have no regular paid arrangements with the press, radio, television, sport, musical, literary or any other such activities. I am not, therefore, required to offer advice about parliamentary matters.

You state that "many MPs consulted him [Sir Gordon] about what should go in the register". I was one of them.

Your correspondent also writes "Sir Edward, who declined to go along with earlier rules calling on MPs to give details of their Lloyd's membership", but you failed to complete the story. After a number of us in the House of Commons had requested a meeting with the House of Commons Select Committee on Members' Interests the committee changed its position on this point, and in the committee's second report, in session 1993-94, it abandoned its demand for MPs to declare publicly the syndicate to which they belonged and substituted for it:

"In addition, Members who register an interest in Lloyd's... should also be required to disclose the categories of insurance business which they are underwriting. This disclosure should be by reference to the categories of business used by Lloyd's in its publication of syndicate performance."

The committee recognised that publishing an individual's syndicate number was not the proper way of dealing with Lloyd's members. Instead they rightly provided for the publication of categories of insurance. This could have been settled from the beginning if there had been proper consultation between the committee and parliamentary members of Lloyd's.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD HEATH,
House of Commons.
May 8.

All buttoned down

From Mr Michael Booth

Sir, Your Diarists' "Americanisation" of the button-down collar (May 4) aired a general misconception. The button-down shirt collar was not invented by the American firm with which it came to be so strongly identified — Brooks Brothers, of New York.

John Brooks saw the style on British polo players whilst he was holidaying in England in 1900 and rushed one back to New York for copying. The style was popular here in a number of sports in the 19th century, controlling as it did the distractions of flapping shirt-collars points when the wearer was in action.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. BOOTH (Chairman),
Hilditch & Key (shirtmakers),
88 Jermyn Street, SW1.
May 8.

Care of Kenwood

From Ms Anne French

Sir, Mr Julius Bryant, Director of Collections at English Heritage (letter, April 22), defends the decision not to reinstate a permanent curator at Kenwood House on the grounds that "there has not been a curator devoted full-time to Kenwood for the past thirty years". I regard this argument as both disingenuous and unconvincing.

I also note that Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Chairman of English Heritage, has been reported as asserting that "it is an illusion that there was a permanent curator at Kenwood". Sir Jocelyn's memory, it seems to me, like Mr Bryant's, is strangely short.

For ten years, from 1979 to 1989, I worked for a very much present and

Wind turbines: boon to farmers or blots on landscape?

From Mr A. G. M. Hunter

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Old Macdonald has a windfarm", May 4) should not blame farmers for these new features of the landscape. In the UK, the wind electricity market, which has been stimulated because wind is a clean renewable energy resource, almost entirely excludes farmers. This contrasts with countries like Denmark, The Netherlands and Germany, where farm and community ownership of wind turbines is commonplace.

Our studies show that, although the opportunity is not well developed in the UK, farm revenue from electricity sales would be a good business proposition at very many farm sites where wind speeds are high enough, even without the price support that Mr Jenkins so strongly opposes. A wind turbine need not be large, nor sited on the skyline, but its annual generated revenue could be a lifeline to farms that are struggling to survive in the hills and uplands.

It is well to remember that the very landscapes which we value so highly are also preserved and maintained for us by farming activity: a wind turbine could be just what a farmer needs to allow him to continue doing that job on our behalf.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR HUNTER,
Scottish Agricultural College,
Resource Engineering Department,
Bush Estate, Penicuik, Midlothian.
May 6.

From Mr Bill Davies

Sir, Far from desecrating the countryside, I find windmills a pleasure to the eye: majestic, awe-inspiring structures, powered by the natural elements, in harmony with nature rather than working against it. To call them "even more obtrusive" than pylons (which really are a desecration) is ludicrous.

A windmill is by no means permanent either — unlike power stations, particularly those of the nuclear variety. It can be taken down in a day, and leave barely a trace of its existence.

Yours,
BILL DAVIES,
19 Greenbank, Falmouth, Cornwall.
May 6.

From Mr Jim Platts

Sir, In the teeth of a heavily subsidised power industry (nuclear), and with modest and reducing assistance, wind energy has steadily proved itself cost-effective, energy-efficient and, where subject to a public discussion for planning approval, popular.

There is now a substantial industry across Europe, giving employment to 12,000 people, with thousands of wind turbines erected (over 1,750 Mw generating capacity) and a substantial export market. But most of that cost-effective electricity production isn't in the UK and most of those wind energy engineers aren't in the UK either. Rather than being "fanatics", those involved in developing the small UK

wind energy industry are a diverse group of deeply thoughtful people, trying hard to explore and put in place what might be an important option for our children.

They will need to understand where energy comes from and what the costs and consequences of different energy supply routes are, so that they can engage in informed public debate and come to informed decisions. This is not a privilege we have ever been allowed.

Yours faithfully,
JIM PLATTS (Lecturer),
University of Cambridge,
Department of Engineering,
Mill Lane, Cambridge.
May 6.

From Mr Robert Woodward

Sir, Bravo, Simon Jenkins. It was about time someone exposed the wind "farm" scam. Denmark has 3,800 wind turbines, built over the last 20 years, and there is virtually nowhere in the Danish countryside where you can neither see nor hear one. This army of vast, gesticulating towers produces 1.2 per cent of Denmark's total energy needs. Please God, let the United Kingdom not go the same way.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WOODWARD
(Vice-Chairman),
Country Guardian,
Aubrey House, Riverside,
Twickenham, Middlesex.
May 4.

Coal's struggle to stay in power

From the Director General,
Confederation of United Kingdom
Coal Producers

Sir, Life in Britain's coal industry has never been easy and it certainly faces strong commercial pressures. However, it has always responded positively to the challenges identified in Christine Buckley's article, "Struggle hardens for coal to stay in the power game" (April 30) and it will continue to fight for its share of the market.

Contrary to the impression readers may have gained, the industry is not seeking "support mechanisms", only the opportunity to compete on a level playing field.

Coal continues to be the cheapest form of electricity generation in the UK; electricity generated from the new gas stations is up to 50 per cent more expensive than from the coal-fired stations they are replacing.

Substantial stocks of coal have been used to cover the shortfall in electricity supplies from gas stations. Stocks at the end of February 1996

were 7.4 million tonnes, compared with 34.3 million tonnes at the end of March 1993.

New gas stations have failed to deliver on time and there is a dawning realisation that contracts can be interrupted.

Britain needs an integrated energy policy within an environmental framework.

By the responsible use of our vast coal reserves and the more limited reserves of gas and oil we can maintain a diverse energy base and an independence which must augur well for the future of jobs and the competitiveness of businesses.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD A. MOUSLEY,
Director General,
The Confederation of United Kingdom Coal Producers,
Confederation House,
Thames Office Park,
Denby Dale Road,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire.
May 2.

"Without Walls"

From Mr Dylan Evans

Sir, Your brief article on me, "So who is this man?" (Body and Mind, May 2), states that my qualifications "are not recognised by the analysts' official body". It implies, erroneously, that there is only one official body, the British Psycho-Analytical Society, which regulates the practice of psychoanalysis in this country. Over half the world's psychoanalysts are Lacanians, as I am, and are thus outside the BPAS's parent body, the International Psycho-Analytical Association.

Yours sincerely,
DYLAN EVANS,
Flat 1, 89 Seymour Road, N8.
May 5.

From Ms Penny Crick

Sir, We applaud Channel Four's decision to withdraw the *Without Walls*

Blight of devolution

From Sir Wyn Roberts, MP for Conwy (Conservative)

Sir, The answer to the headline question on Magnus Linklater's article "Devolution: is it dying of inertia?" (May 2) is surely "Yes" and not only in Scotland but in Wales.

The explanation is not only that the arguments for devolution fail to inspire, but that the prospect of yet another tier of government arouses a host of well grounded fears — that the financial costs falling on local people will heavily outweigh any possible

programme, *Psychoanalysing Diana* ("Why Diana does not deserve this", Body and Mind, May 2).

Self-styled "psychoanalyst" Dylan Evans brings the endeavour of psychoanalysis into gross disrepute by attempting a "simulation" of a process which could not be further from pretence and simulation in its real practice, as any real patient and any real psychoanalyst would be able to testify.

Lacan himself, with whom Evans claims affinity, defined psychoanalysis as this "truthful school of the passions of the city". It is not something that can be performed by proxy and in public.

Yours etc,
PENNY CRICK
(External Relations Officer),
British Confederation of
Psychotherapists,
37a Mapesbury Road, NW2.
May 6.

benefits to them, that if Westminster MPs are inadequate in various ways, regional representatives will accrete their worst features, and fear that, if the UK Government is weak in the European Union, regional governments will be absolutely powerless and at the mercy of the burgeoning superstate that appears to be threatening us.

Yours sincerely,
WYN ROBERTS
(Minister of State,
Welsh Office 1987-94),
House of Commons.
May 3.

'Salomé' fights back

From Mr Steven Berkoff

Sir, In one of the most antagonistic reviews it has been my misfortune to receive, Mark Steyn ("Pity the splenic artist", Books, May 2) mocks my production of *Salomé* as a kind of negative example for my autobiography, *Free Association*.

Misconceiving the production, the reviewer claims that the cast were "talking... very... sloooooowly..." when in fact this is palpably untrue. They spoke normally if not more clearly than is usually heard in the theatre. They moved "sloooooowly" and that is quite different. Movement, except to the visually or mentally challenged, can be an art form in itself. I should hope, and it was the movement of the piece which earned it 99 per cent houses during its entire run.

Mr Steyn also claims, with that marvellous perspicacity some critics have, of hearing "the audience's collective penny drop" as they telepathically convey to his acute senses their obvious distress: "oh, God, they're going to do the whole thing in slow motion".

While possessing extra-sensory perception at the beginning of the play, he seemed to possess waxen ears by the end, when the audience cheered the production.

Salomé was one of the most successful productions at the National that year and went on to receive high acclaim in Australia, Japan, Madrid, Lisbon, Chicago and New York. So if *Salomé* is to be held up as a paradigm of *Free Association* I should be very pleased indeed, and count my book a great success.

Yours sincerely,
S. BERKOFF,
East Productions Ltd,
18 Narrow Street, E14.
May 3.

View from Waterloo

From Dr C. W. Coen

Sir, The panorama from London's Waterloo Bridge must be one of the most magnificent in the urban world. Your report, "Live-in bridge over Thames wins support" (May 7), indicates that the attractive proposal for a new pedestrian bridge sited between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges may be superseded by plans for an inhabited structure "with four blocks of accommodation 20 metres high... allowing gaps to maintain views up the river".

The report states that the Secretary of State for the Environment is backing the plans for this commercial development. The ghastly prospect of an obstruction to such an exceptional view might inspire latter-day Wordsworths to voice protestations (not sonnets) up-river at Westminster. As the poet might have said: "Dull would he be of soul who could pass" such plans.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE COEN,
King's College London,
Biomedical Sciences Division,
Strand, WC2.
May 7.

Hard to swallow?

From Mr Guy Beddington

Sir, Your report (May 2) of the astonishing appetite and pleasingly lengthy digestive processes of the mud springs at Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, suggests a unique and wondrously economical means to dispose of our bovine and other hazardous waste.

More cumbersome objects, such as rolling stock and oil rigs, if judiciously fed bit by bit, will, for several million years, effectively vanish.

Yours expectantly,
GUY BEDDINGTON,
55 Ladbroke Road, W11.
May 2.

OBITUARIES

SIR HOWARD SMITH

Sir Howard Smith, GCMG, British Ambassador in Moscow, 1976-78, and Director-General of the Security Service (MIS), 1978-81, died on May 7 aged 86. He was born on October 15, 1919.

WHEN he was personally asked by the Prime Minister James Callaghan to take over as head of MIS in 1978, Howard Smith wanted to take the post only on the basis that his appointment would be publicised. The Prime Minister had asked him to leave the Moscow Embassy early in order to go to MIS because of Labour suspicion of the extreme secretiveness of the Security Service. There was a strong feeling in government circles that the Security Service had become too secret by half, that greater openness about MIS would demystify the organisation and increase public confidence and the confidence of other Whitehall departments in the service.

Smith's desire to carry these laudable aims a step further and be publicly named was not, in fact, to be granted. He was ordered to remain anonymous, and it was not until Stella Rimington was named Director-General of the Security Service in a blaze of publicity in 1992 that the general public was at last allowed to know who actually ran MIS. Nevertheless the appointment of Smith in 1978 was a first small step on the way towards what eventually became greater openness. It was also the first time that a career diplomat — rather than a policeman or longtime intelligence officer — had become head of MIS.

Howard Frank Trayton Smith's career was a remarkable one. He did not come from a diplomatic background. His father was a hard-pressed and impecunious schoolmaster, struggling to bring up a large family in the 1930s. Smith senior was forced to supplement his income by playing in a local band to try to make ends meet. In these unpromising circumstances, Howard Smith owed his remarkable opportunities to the Second World War. Whatever else its undoubted and manifold drawbacks, this global upheaval, with its sudden call on a wide range of talents of all sorts, had an egalitarian tendency which was beneficial to many men and women — especially those nurtured in technical fields.

Smith's particular bent was for



mathematics. Born in Brighton and subsequently raised in Wembley, he won a scholarship to the old Regent Street Polytechnic (now part of the University of Westminster) and, after doing well there, another to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. But he never got the chance to take his degree. When war broke out British Intelligence scoured the universities for brilliant mathematicians who would be required to break the Enigma ciphers, which were being used by the German armed forces and the Abwehr. Swept up into the net, Smith was sent to the decrypting centre at Bletchley Park. There for the next five-and-a-half years he was involved in deciphering the Enigma keys and thus helping to turn them into the Ultra intelligence which enabled the Allies to

gain their profound insight into German military intentions.

After the war he joined the Foreign Service and served in a number of non-specialist posts: in Oslo; in Washington, where he was 2nd Secretary (Information); and as Consul at Caracas. In 1950 he came back to the Foreign Office in London and there began his long association with Soviet and East European Affairs. He had earlier met the Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and, although his specialisation in Soviet affairs had begun too late in his life, perhaps, for him to acquire Russian, he developed an insight into the Soviet way of "doing business" that stood him in good stead in his later posts. Soviet officials at least appreciated that he was not instinctively anti-Soviet, indeed that he liked many Russians as individuals.

But the Russians were aware, too, that he was a tough and sceptical negotiator.

Smith was Counsellor in Moscow, 1961-63, a particularly trying period of the Cold War which gave him plenty of experience of, and insight into, the psychology of Anglo-Soviet diplomacy. He was back at the Foreign Office, 1964-68, before in November 1968 being handed one of his least tractable assignments, the ambassadorship in Prague. It was a difficult time. The reformist government of Dubcek had been brutally suppressed by Soviet tanks and was shortly to be replaced by a servile regime. It was largely a period of marking time for Western diplomats in Prague, though Smith did what little could be done to encourage faint flickerings of an independent attitude in some quarters.

He returned to the United Kingdom in 1971 to take up the post of UK Representative in Northern Ireland which he held until 1972, when he became a Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet Office. In 1976 he crowned his long run of Soviet-related appointments when he was sent to be Ambassador in Moscow. With relations between London and Washington and the Kremlin at best wary, in spite of the superficial appearance of détente, it was again a somewhat sterile period for diplomacy.

Yet Smith's personal standing was always one of respect from the host country and its officials. There was at least enough understanding between him and Gromyko for him to want to tell the latter, when he was summoned back to London in 1978 before the end of his term, that his departure had nothing to do with British foreign policy, so that the wrong (and perhaps damaging) construction should not be placed on it in the Kremlin.

Smith retired from the Security Service in 1981 with the reputation of a good organiser, who was not overbearing to subordinates nor over-deferential to Ministers. He was appointed GCMG in 1966, KCMG in 1976 and advanced to GCMG in 1981.

Howard Smith was married first, in 1943, to Milford Mary Cropper who died in 1962, and second to Mary Penney who died earlier this year. Both his wives had been colleagues from his days at Bletchley. He is survived by the daughter of his first marriage.

PREBENDARY DOUGLAS CLEVERLEY FORD

Prebendary Douglas Cleverley Ford, founding director of the College of Preachers and Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, 1975-80, died on May 4 aged 82. He was born on March 4, 1914.



A CLERGYMAN of the old school, Douglas Cleverley Ford spent almost his entire ministry in London. By former listeners to the BBC's Light Programme he will probably best be remembered for his period as vicar of Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road, where his Sunday morning services were in the 1950s and 1960s a regular part of the religious output.

He was a fine preacher in the classic Evangelical tradition and for 13 years he combined holding his living in Kensington Gore (just behind the Albert Hall) with the honorary directorship of the newly-founded College of Preachers. This represented an effort — largely Evangelical-inspired — to improve the standard of sermons within the Church of England and, although the college was later to have its ups-and-downs, under Cleverley Ford's leadership it enjoyed considerable success.

Very much a protégé of Donald Coggan, the Archbishop of Canterbury whom he served as senior chaplain at Lambeth, Douglas William Cleverley Ford was educated at Great Yarmouth School and at the University of London. He returned there to teach the following year, remaining a college tutor for two years — during which time he was ordained. He served his title at Bridlington, spending the first three years of his ministry in that Yorkshire seaside resort.

In 1942 he returned to London to become vicar of Holy Trinity, Hampstead, combining his wartime parish work there with lecturing at the London College of Divinity, where from 1944 onwards Donald Coggan was Principal. Cleverley Ford's own lectures were always well prepared and easy to listen to — his speciality being biblical exposition showing the relevance of scripture to contemporary life.

In 1955 the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey presented him to the living of Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road, which had been combined with Dean Inge's old parish of All Saints, Ennismore Gardens. There Cleverley Ford found only a very small congregation — his predecessor-bar-one, Canon J.O. Hannay (the Irish thriller-writer George A. Birmingham), having after 16 years just died in harness at the age of 84. Nevertheless, largely through his preaching, he gradually built up an effective ministry in George Bodley's remarkably handsome and spacious church.

His achievements were reflected in his appointment to be rural dean of Westminster in 1965, his preference as a prebendary of St Paul's in 1967, his choice to be a chaplain to the Queen in 1973 and in his unusual selection, for a London clergyman, to

serve as a provincial canon of York in 1969.

This last, though, was probably best seen as a tribute to his work as the first director of the College of Preachers — a body that the then Archbishop of York, Dr Donald Coggan, had taken the lead in founding in 1960. In this role Cleverley Ford was a great success — much enjoying the residential courses that were occasionally run and generally inspiring hundreds of clergy over the years in their weekly task of sermon preparation.

Harold Wilson's decision, however, in 1974 to offer the archbishopric of Canterbury to Donald Coggan brought all this work to an end. It was natural that the new 64-year-old Primate of All England would want his old friends around him — and equally predictable that one of his choices would fall on his former colleague, with whom he shared so many interests, from the London College of Divinity, serving at Lambeth from 1975 to 1980 — he retired along with the Archbishop that year — Cleverley Ford inevitably took a back seat, working on things like clergy discipline, Coggan's speeches and the preparation of material for bishops' meetings; but it was some indication of the highly responsible duties he performed that they should, after his own time, generally have been put in the hands of a retired diocesan bishop.

A shy and diffident man, Cleverley Ford himself would probably never have felt at home on the episcopal bench — though there was a time in his career when he could well have reached it. He retired to Lingfield in Surrey on leaving Lambeth at the age of 65 and continued to write throughout his retirement, being the author in all of some fifty books and pamphlets mainly on the theme of preaching.

He married in 1939 Olga Mary Bewley, who died in 1993. They had no children.

MARJORIE LEE

Marjorie Lee, former public relations officer of the Dorchester Hotel, died on April 20 aged 81. She was born on October 23, 1914.



PUBLIC RELATIONS is a job at which women have traditionally excelled, but in the specialist arena of hotel work Marjorie Lee had a particularly illustrious career. She was head of public relations at the Dorchester Hotel on Park Lane for more than forty years. The hotel had opened in 1931, and Marjorie joined it seven years later.

Marjorie Geraldine Vaughan Lee was born in Norfolk, but brought up in West Chilton in West Sussex by her grandmother and educated locally. As a young woman with no private means she was obliged to earn her own living.

She began her career working as secretary to Richmond Temple who was then the PR consultant and a director of the Savoy Hotel. Temple had brought back some revolutionary ideas from America on the role of the press officer, and claimed to have invented the idea of public relations in British hotels.

After an argument with Sir

George Reeves-Smith, the Savoy's managing director, Temple left the Savoy taking his staff of three, including Marjorie Lee, with him. Gordon Hotels, the chain which then owned the Dorchester, invited

the hotel had then one of the most stunning art deco interiors in London. Marjorie Lee took over an office on its mezzanine floor, originally with a staff of three though this later contracted to one faithful assistant, Daphne Petrie, who remained with her for 25 years. Women in PR were then very much a novelty, but the two made a formidable team and built up good working relationships with Fleet Street journalists.

During the Second World War Marjorie Lee spent her evenings as a firewatcher on the roof of the hotel. The building was made of reinforced concrete and was claimed to be fire-proof, earthquake-proof and bomb-proof, though this last boast was never put to the test as it was never directly hit.

As a result, its rooms were occupied by such men as Sir Anthony Eden, and Lord Portal, Chief of the Air Staff. General Eisenhower made his headquarters in one of the suites and in the period before D-Day entertained Winston Churchill there once a week.

Marjorie Lee had an enormous amount of experience of dealing with people and never lost her poise, no matter to whom she was talking. After

the war many Hollywood stars stayed at the Dorchester, and she numbered Darryl F. Zanuck, Peter Sellers, Somerset Maugham and his secretary-companion Alan Searle among her friends. She organised a 50th birthday party for Richard Burton in 1975, and lined the Orchard Room with costermonger stalls serving bangers and mash. She very deftly handled the press coverage for the wedding of Lord Mountbatten's daughter Pamela to David Hicks in January 1960, at which Princess Anne was one of the bridesmaids.

Marjorie Lee seemed to be present at every function, and astonished those much younger than herself with her stamina. She could leave a party in the small hours of the morning and be back at her desk, looking bright and imperturbable, only a few hours later. There was a formidable edge to her character and she could appear cold and forbidding to staff when she was annoyed by slackness or ineptitude. But more usually she was warm, friendly and quick to see the amusing side of things.

She retired first in 1978, when the Dorchester was sold to a new consortium, but then was asked back shortly afterwards, retiring properly in 1980. The Dorchester had been her home and family, and she never married.

With her customary independence, she went to live in Melbourne at the age of 74, where a niece had emigrated. There she gave talks on the Dorchester and was involved by the present management of the hotel in more promotional activities. She loved knitting and dogs, and kept poodles in England and King Charles spaniels in Australia. She remained in robust health until three months ago.

DAVID KENNEDY

David Kennedy, former US Secretary of the Treasury, died on May 1 aged 90. He was born on July 21, 1905.



ALTHOUGH an enormously successful banker, as a politician David Kennedy showed an inconvenient tendency towards honesty. Soon after being chosen by President-Elect Richard Nixon as Treasury Secretary, and before the appointment had even been confirmed, Kennedy told a press conference that he could not rule out the possibility that the Nixon Administration would raise the price of gold — fixed at \$35 an ounce — in order to stabilise the dollar.

The reaction was a speculative surge in the European gold markets, driving up the price of the precious metal. When after his confirmation hearings, Kennedy announced that the price of gold would in fact be maintained, a lot of speculators lost a lot of money.

A few months later, in early 1970, Kennedy compounded the offence by threatening to impose wage and price controls if Congress failed to maintain the 10 per cent surtax imposed by President Johnson in a bid to curb inflation. This latest blunder, along with a tight monetary policy which caused rising unemployment and a major fall in the stock market, was widely blamed for a poor Republican showing in the congressional elections of November 1970. Kennedy offered himself as a scapegoat and resigned, to be succeeded by the former Governor of Texas John Connally.

The non-partisan Kennedy, who had previously held posts in both the Eisenhower and Johnson Administrations, was

widely viewed as a conservative. However, he was by no means a conservative of the modern Republican or Thatcherite stamp. Although he believed in a balanced budget and strong fiscal restraints, he was equally convinced that government and industry bore a joint responsibility for alleviating the plight of the poor. "The men who run American industry today," he said in a 1968 interview, "can no longer shrug their shoulders and say that the poor are always with us, and there is little we can do about it."

Kennedy did something about it himself in his role as chairman and chief executive of the Continental Illinois Bank — which he built into the eighth largest in the United States. He hired scores of hard-core unemployed blacks and Hispanics, arranged training and employment for high school dropouts, and committed \$65 million for low-cost housing loans.

Although his family owned a small bank in Utah, it was some time before David Maxwell Kennedy was to join the

profession. He was a devout Mormon, and after graduating from college in 1928 he spent two years as a missionary in England before deciding that he would embark on a career as a lawyer. While studying at George Washington University's Law School, however, he took a job with the Federal Reserve System, reopening and liquidating banks beset by the Depression. The experience convinced him that finance would be a more attractive profession than law, and he went on to study banking while continuing to work at the Federal Reserve.

By the end of the Second World War, Kennedy had acquired an impressive reputation and was sought after by several leading banks in New York. He decided instead to go to Chicago, where he became vice-president of Continental Illinois in 1951, president in 1956, and chairman of the board and chief executive in 1959. Under Kennedy's leadership, especially in expanding business overseas, the bank's earnings grew faster than those of any of the ten largest American institutions during the 1960s.

He seemed the ideal choice for Nixon's Treasury Secretary, and took a salary cut of \$198,750 to assume the post. It may have been with some relief, however, that he accepted the job of Ambassador-at-large in the Nixon Cabinet after his resignation, mainly dealing with negotiating trade agreements. He also served for a year as Ambassador to Nato, before retiring to private life in 1973.

His wife Lenora, to whom he was married for 70 years, died last year. He leaves four daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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NIGHT SCENES IN LONDON

ROYAL FAMILY ON PALACE BALCONY

The biggest crowd seen outside Buckingham Palace since the Silver Jubilee, outnumbering even those of the Coronation, greeted the King and Queen and the two Princesses when they appeared on the balcony last night.

The people packed the pavements and the roadway in front of the Palace, and for a long way down the Mall. They stood in silence listening to the King's broadcast speech, and at the end of it raised a great cheer, and sang the National Anthem.

Then the crowd began to chant "We want the King." A few minutes later the King and Queen appeared on the balcony with the Princesses and waved and smiled to the crowds. The King was in naval uniform, and the Queen was wearing a white ermine wrap over her evening gown, and had a diamond tiara in her hair. For five minutes there was a tumult of cheering.

About 10.45 the King and Queen and the Princesses again came out on to the balcony, where they stayed about 10 minutes, waving to the crowd in response to cheers. Shortly before midnight when searchlights were being flashed across the sky, their Majesties appeared on the balcony again, and remained there for a few minutes. When they returned to the palace most of the crowd left for home. Earlier the two Princesses, escorted by Guards officers, had left the palace to mingle with the crowd outside.

Everywhere crowds listened silently to the loud-speaker relay of the King's speech. Some 60,000 people in Trafalgar Square, headed, joined in singing the National Anthem. A crowd of about 10,000 listened in Parliament Square.

In Whitehall, as soon as the King had finished speaking, bandmen of the Grenadier

ON THIS DAY

May 9, 1945

The main page was devoted to the surrender of Germany signed at 2.41am on May 7. There was however one short item of domestic news — the weather forecast returning after an absence of six years.

Guards played outside the Ministry of Health and the crowd sang and danced. There was also dancing in other parts of London.

Floodlighting drew great crowds to Buckingham Palace after dark. St Paul's Cathedral was also impressively flooded by A.T.S. girls. Trafalgar Square was flooded with light as Nelson's Column was illuminated and the crowd grew to about 100,000 as streams of people converged on the square.

Searchlights placed in front of the National Gallery lit up the scene and the beams reached along Whitehall. Coloured rockets were sent into the air and thunder flashes, and other fireworks added to the crowd's hilarity. At other points, too, fireworks were mysteriously produced, crowds sang and danced, and Hitler effigies perished on bonfires.

Later, thousands of searchlights circled the skies and with the bangs of exploding fireworks, faint echoes of the sound of rocket guns and not too distant bombs reminded Londoners of bygone air raids. The lights centred on a single spot in the sky like huge spokes of a wheel, but there was no white gleam of aircraft wings there and no shimmering roar of gunfire accompanied the spectacle. For the first time since 1939 the people could look up and enjoy the beauty of a peaceful display above their city.

**Wanted:
Someone
to sell
Britain**

HOLIDAYS

on a 15-day walking holiday in Tuscany, flying from London tomorrow to explore the Apennine foothills and the Cinque Terre coast with visits to Florence and Lucca. Price: £665 per person including accommodation; meals extra. Details: 0181-675 5550.

■ **DRIVE FRANCE** has a selection of villas in Brittany and on the Côte d'Azur starting at £59 per person (based on six sharing) for Whit week including ferry crossings from Ramsgate to Dunkerque between May 23 and 25. Details: 0181-395 8888.

■ **HAWAII** is featured in late availability deals for next month from United Vacations, with prices ranging from £969 per person for a week at a golf and tennis resort on Oahu to £1,434 for a fortnight's two-centre holiday. Details: 0181-313 0909

■ EXODUS has availability

HOTELS

packages all summer for £167 a person. This includes two nights' accommodation, dinner on one night, tickets to racing at Ascot, Windsor, Kempton Park or Newbury, plus a picnic hamper. Details: 01753 609988.

■ **ASHDOWN** Park at Wyche Cross in East Sussex has a new short-break rate of £158 a room a night for a minimum of any two nights, with breakfast and dinner included. The hotel is convenient for Glydebourne and hampers can be provided on request. Details: 01342 824088.

■ ITT Sheraton has launched a special corporate-rate deal for frequent business travelers at 40 of its European hotels. Called Europe Preferred, the scheme offers savings of up to 30 per cent on normal rates. Details: 0800 353535.



FLIGHTS

■ **THAI International** has lower business class fares to Vietnam and Burma. A round trip ticket via Bangkok to Saigon costs £2,579 with Hanoi priced at £2,599, and Rangoon at £2,511. Details: 017-499 9113.

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Wanted: someone to sell Britain

AFTER two months of poring over a dwindling list of likely names, Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, seems almost ready to announce the successor to Adele Biss, whom she brusquely removed from the job of chief spokeswoman for Britain.

Such luminaries as Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman of British Airways, Sir John Egan, the chief executive of the airport operator BAA, former Tory MP Sir Robert McCrindle, Sir Rocco Forte and even Lord Archer are all believed to have been "in the frame" at one time or another to become joint chairman of the British Tourist Authority (BTA) and the English Tourist Board when Ms Biss's three-year contract expires at the end of this month.

But the rumour mill has snowed ground out a contender who has proved to be remarkably skilful and knowledgeable and something of a stick, if amateur, politician too — Roy Tutty.

Mr Tutty, 46, was plucked from the Forte hotel company and asked to spend six months with the Department of National Heritage as tourism adviser.

He advised so well that, even though in the meantime he was appointed director of industry affairs by Forte's new owners Granada, his secondment to Whitehall was extended until early 1997.

His temporary job is already remarkably similar to that done by the chairman of the BTA and it seems logical for him simply to move across. The problem, say insiders who claim to know about these things, could be the measly £41,000-a-year salary.

Some expect an announce-

ment next week. Others believe that Mrs Bottomley is looking for a real "heavyweight" who has charisma, is an expert in the industry, and is better known both at home and abroad than Mr Tutty.

Whatever happens, a new BTA chairman should be appointed quickly because there is an awful lot to be done.

The BSE "mad cow" scare, for example, has frightened off thousands of visitors just as Britain was attracting growing numbers of free-spending foreign tourists. "Many people who cancelled told their travel agent that they were terrified that just by being in Britain they would catch some awful disease," said one tour operator. "Some bookings — especially from younger people — were cancelled in droves. We need someone who can get the facts across."

The new tourist chief will also have to confront the problem of soaring hotel prices, which have persuaded American holidaymakers especially to give Britain a miss in favour of Italy or France.

Last year hotel room rates went up by 12 per cent, price rises are even steeper for the coming Euro '96 football competition and there is an attempt to impose yet another 8 per cent rise on tour operators later this summer and next winter.

Mr Tutty would appear to be the ideal man to take this problem on. But if Labour get into power they may want to put their own appointee into the post. What of Mr Tutty then?

He simply returns to Granada whence he came and reassumes the waiting director's chair.

All too neat? Possibly. Mrs Bottomley could still wait until she can choose someone who more nearly fits her ideal. The travel industry just hopes that she makes a choice soon.

Visitors to Santa left in the dark

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

AN ESSEX woman who did not realise that midwinter in Lapland could be very cold and dark is planning to sue a tour operator for failing to warn her in advance.

Sue Beattie from Dagenham paid £1,120 for a day trip to see Santa Claus at his home in Ivalo in Lapland with her husband and five-year-old twins on December 22 last year.

"Your failure to mention that the tour would be in complete darkness and that our departure date was Ivalo's shortest day of the year in your brochure is misleading and in law amounts to misrepresentation," she wrote.

Canterbury Travel of Northwood, Middlesex, denied that it was to blame for Mrs Beattie's disappointment and will defend any action she brings to court. Yesterday, *Holiday Which?* magazine highlighted her problems.

The Beatties travelled on the shortest day of the year — which Canterbury had not mentioned — and after a cheerless flight delayed by 45 minutes found not even the smallest glimmer of light. Even worse they were advised that it was too cold for skidoo or sleigh rides," the magazine writes.

The pictures illustrating the day trip which appeared in the company's glossy brochure were taken in bright sunlight. And that, according to Patricia Yates, the editor of *Holiday Which?*, can be very misleading.

"For many children the dream of meeting Santa Claus is completely shattered by the reality of a dark and bleak winter's day," she said.

Adrian Collins, sales director of Canterbury Travel, remained unrepentant yesterday. "On many days in the

winter when the sky is clear there are several hours of twilight which the snow reflects enabling you to see everything, even the elves in the trees, clearly," he said.

"Unfortunately on the day Mrs Beattie went it was minus 42 degrees and very overcast. The guides advised against travelling to the centre by either reindeer or skidoo. We cannot control the weather conditions, I am afraid, and that is what it can be like in the Arctic in December."

The company, which takes about 5,000 holidaymakers on day trips to Lapland each year, has, however, now included a picture taken in the darkness. "You can't see much, but no one will be able to complain they did not know what it would be like," he said.

Holiday Which? has also highlighted another serious problem for holidaymakers. Those who hire cars in Corfu or in Spain could find themselves driving a deathtrap, according to the magazine. It claims that 12 out of 41 cars rented from local firms were in a dangerous state and that five out of 16 hired from multinational companies were just as bad.

All but one of the 17 dangerous cars had unsafe tyres and 20 cars had "clearly been badly serviced or not checked between hirers", the magazine says.

Only five of the 57 cars tested passed with flying colours. "People's lives are being put at risk," said Patricia Yates. "We have asked hire companies to take these unfit cars off the road and take more responsibility for the safety of their customers. In the meantime holidaymakers should look at their hire cars, particularly the tyres, very closely before driving away."



"Boris Yeltsin" bypasses the queue for Madame Tussaud's, a leading tourist draw

UK attractions score

SIZZLING summer temperatures tempted tourists to flock to outdoor attractions last year. The British Tourist Authority (BTA) reports that visitors to country parks rose 7 per cent, those going to gardens increased 5 per cent and the numbers welcomed at historic properties were up 4 per cent.

Overall, visits to Britain's tourist attractions rose 2 per cent in 1995 compared with 1994. BTA statistics show that last year:

- Visitor-centre numbers increased by 4 per cent.
- Visits to farm attractions were up 3 per cent and steam railways by 2 per cent.
- The number of tourists visiting museums and galleries fell by 3 per cent.
- Visits to workplaces were down by 2 per cent. But leis-

ure parks and wildlife centres did as well as in 1994.

Alton Towers theme park was again the top admission-charging attraction. Blackpool Pleasure Beach, with 7.3 million visitors, was the top admission-free attraction, and 5.7 million visited the British Museum, which is also free.

Adele Biss, the BTA chairman, said: "Increased invest-

ment and the bonus of a hot summer tempted more visitors to sample our many tourist attractions. World-class attractions new this year, such as the Leeds Royal Armouries and Legoland at Windsor, should encourage more days out in 1996."

Free attractions reported a 2 per cent increase in admissions and admission-charging centres rose by 1 per cent.

TOP TEN ATTRACTIONS

Attraction	Visitors
1. Alton Towers, Staffordshire	2,707,000
2. Madame Tussaud's, London	2,703,285
3. Tower of London	2,558,680
4. Chessington World of Adventure, Surrey	1,770,000
5. Science Museum, London	1,556,368
6. St Paul's Cathedral, London	1,500,000
7. Windsor Castle, Berkshire	1,212,306
8. Blackpool Tower	1,205,000
9. Thorpe Park, Surrey	1,188,000
10. Natural History Museum, London	1,084,273

* Excluding free venues

British skiers travel further for best deals

By GRAHAM DUFFILL

FRANCE took more British skiers than any other country last season but Italy, North America and Canada had huge increases.

North America more than doubled its share to 8 per cent and Italy rose to 18 per cent, according to the annual Ski Industry Report compiled by the tour operator Crystal.

Currency advantage was clearly the main motivation as both venues offered better value than their big three alpine rivals: France fell from 31 per cent of the market to 28 per cent, Austria was down from 26 to 22 per cent and Switzerland fell from 8 to 6 per cent.

Switzerland was eclipsed by Bulgaria, a country most discerning skiers would normally avoid. The Crystal survey, based on a compilation of the numbers carried by tour operators and on resort bed-night figures from national tourist offices, shows that the low-cost destination surpassed the once-great skiing country by a few percentage points.

This seems to indicate that skiers still come from both ends of the social spectrum. Crystal believes that those who choose cheap countries, such as Bulgaria and Andorra, are skiers who have been before and take the best they can afford, rather than the usual beginners.

The US and Canada shared 8 per cent of the ski market which, says Andy Perrin, marketing director, indicates that the well-off are excited by

North America. "The sheer breadth of skiing available in America will mean that it will continue to be more popular than Canada," he adds.

The cost difference between North America and Europe is probably the lowest it has ever been. Crystal offers skiing in New England from £345 a week although its average holiday in North America costs £750 a week, compared with £440 for Europe.

Most of the major tour operators have already produced the first editions of their brochures for next season and most are increasing their capacity in North America and Italy.

First Choice features Whistler and Banff/Lake Louise for the first time. Winter Park in Colorado, four new Italian resorts and La Massana in Andorra. Airtrons is running charter flights from Gatwick and Manchester to Calgary with prices around £500 for ten days room-only in Banff's main hotels. It is adding Whistler, Vail in Colorado and Mammoth in California to its North American programme.

Inghams has included some of the chalets run by Bladon Lines, the middle-market chalet specialist it bought two years ago, to its main brochure. One feature of the weak pound is that chalet holidays offer better value than hotels.

Most operators are offering incentives for early bookers, especially deals on lift tickets, and free lift tickets for children at certain resorts and times.

Lille joins the jet set

By PAUL STEVENSON

THE new international airport at Lille, which opened ten days ago, offers travellers an alternative to the congested facilities at Paris and Brussels.

The new one-level passenger terminal, ten minutes from the centre of Lille and its Eurostar station, has been designed to relieve Paris and Brussels of 1.5 million passengers a year — a figure which could climb to 8 million in 20 years' time when the London/Paris/Brussels nexus

is expected to approach gridlock.

The new airport can also serve passengers who arrive by Eurostar and want to fly on to destinations throughout France and along the Mediterranean. Twenty-five airlines have booked in for business so far. Jean Yves Savina, its director, hopes to attract BA to Lille-Lesquin to relieve Gatwick of excess traffic. "This could be London's fourth airport one day," he said.

Agents take geography test in fight for survival

TRAVEL agents whose staff have a basic knowledge of geography will be eligible for a "quality of service" award as part of a drive to save Britain's high street travel agents, Harvey Elliott writes.

Agencies with at least two staff who have passed a test to show they know where the world's main cities and resorts are, and how to make a reservation to get there, will be able to display a certificate.

A revolution in travel as travellers use their own laptop computers, together with an attempt by airlines to bypass travel agents, has forced agencies to improve the way they do business.

The scheme was outlined to 250 delegates at the Institute of Travel and Tourism conference in Cyprus last week. Many speakers predicted that new technology would soon enable travellers to book direct from their own personal computers, bypassing all but the most efficient and knowledgeable agents.

Andrew Waller, British Airways general sales manager, said 20 per cent of the cost of an airline ticket went on selling costs, including travel agents' commission. Low-cost airlines were cutting this cost by using technology to enable passengers to book direct.

New smartcard to speed up airports

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

PLANS for an internationally acceptable plastic "smartcard" which will replace existing paper passports, simplify the granting of visas and eliminate queues at airport immigration desks, are close to being finalised.

British officials are working with experts from other countries to produce a system which, they claim, is essential to cope with an expected doubling in the number of travellers over the next decade. Under the scheme, the cost of installing equipment to read the new cards will be met by big business. Companies such as American Express, Diners, Visa and Mastercard have been asked to compete for the huge contract in return for the right to display their logo on each card.



Airport queuing will be shorter with plastic passports

The scheme, known as Fast (Future Automated Screening for Travellers), will rely on biometrics technology, which enables fingerprints, eye patterns, hand scans and other body patterns to be stored on a microchip. Trials have already been held in several countries and experts and civil servants from Australia, Singapore, Bermuda, Hong Kong, Holland, Germany, America and Britain are now refining the system, a prototype of which could be in place next year.

The World Travel and Tourism Council believes that the scheme will greatly enhance security, by making illegal entry to countries much more difficult, as well as speeding up the movement of people across the world.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



EDUCATING ARCHER

He married her for her beauty and brains and got a tutor for life. She married a showman and got fame, fortune, politicking and scandal. But who has had the better deal? In The Sunday Times Magazine this weekend, Jeffrey and Mary Archer talk to Lesley White

PLUS: WIN FIRST-CLASS FLIGHTS TO WASHINGTON

There are 14 pairs of Virgin Atlantic return flights to be won in our £26,500 Travel competition. The star prize is two Upper Class tickets to fly on Virgin's new service to Washington DC. Collect the first of two tokens this Sunday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Upgrade for Blue Train

By MICHAEL HAMLYN

A REVAMP of the Blue Train costing 70 million rand (£11 million) is being undertaken by South Africa's state-owned railways. The luxury "hotel on wheels" runs 250 times a year between Pretoria and Cape Town and does 12 return trips a year from Pretoria to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

Stela Siceau, the Minister for Public Enterprises in President Nelson Mandela's Cabinet, launched the revamp at a media briefing in Cape Town. She said South Africa's tourist industry was experiencing a boom. "Both the

local and international markets are enjoying rapid growth," she said, "with the international market expected to grow at the rate of 12 per cent a year for at least the next five years."

Traditionally, she said, the Blue Train draws most of its support from international tourists, and she added that research shows "the typical Blue Train guest is a mature sophisticated world traveller with a high level of discretion — exactly the sort of income that every country wants to attract."

To enhance the Blue Train's appeal, its carriages are to be converted into all-suite accommodation, and video and audio equipment will be installed along with telephones and fax facilities. The redesign is being carried out by Trish Wilson Associates, responsible for the design of the Palace of the Lost City at Sun City, and the train will become the only one in the world to carry a badge defining it as one of the 200 "leading hotels of the world".

The fares, of course, are going up as a result of the improvements. The cheapest fare on the train at present is 2,500 rand a person for a simple compartment. After the revamp the cheapest fare will be 4,200 rand a person.

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

- Leslie Thomas on the Orana
- When the flowers bloom in Namaqualand
- New Zealand's South Island
- Weekend break in Normandy
- Jill Crawshaw's travel tips
- Kate Muir's Insider's Paris

NEWS

Trolley war dents Sainsbury profits

J Sainsbury was forced to count the cost of the supermarket "trolley wars" when it reported a £100 million slump in profits — the first fall in 22 years.

With Tesco reporting surging sales to reinforce its position as supermarket top dog, Sainsbury's is to revamp its marketing strategy, introduce a "loyalty" card and even launch its own credit card and financial services. Pages 1, 5

Redwood urges election referendum

John Major's hopes of restoring Tory unity in the wake of the local election setback were dented as it was revealed John Redwood is urging ministers to consider holding a referendum about Britain's future in Europe on a general election day in the hope of deterring Sir James Goldsmith from putting up candidates against Tories. Pages 1, 10

Help for mothers

Labour is drawing up ambitious plans to make it easier for mothers to combine a career with bringing up a family by offering financial incentives. Page 1

Scots fly that flag

The Lord Provosts of Glasgow and Edinburgh said the European flag would fly from their chambers today and appealed to companies to follow. Page 2

Olympic nightmare

Every athlete's worst nightmare came true yesterday for a cyclist in Tacoma, Washington: he inadvertently extinguished the Olympic torch. Page 3

Beef ban doubts

The European Commission proposed a plan for lifting the world-wide ban on British beef by-products and bull semen but there were strong doubts that the move would be accepted by member states. Page 4

Johnston memories

Brian Johnston left souvenirs from a half-century of English cricket bursting from every shelf and cupboard of his study. Now they are being auctioned in aid of the sport he loved. Page 6

Hands off

Lord St John of Fawsley, peered quizzically at Antony Williams' portrait of the Queen and said: "These are not the hands of the Queen." Page 7

Mystery of the deep-sea diver

Nearly 300 feet under the North Sea a robot oilrig camera picked out a sleek shape sweeping past. The astonished operator believed at first he had seen a penguin thousands of miles from its Antarctic home. But when a video was studied, the deep-sea diver was identified as an amazing flying and diving guillemot. Page 1

Stone age bypass

Archaeologists believe they have unearthed a Stone Age settlement beneath the route of the Newbury bypass. But even if excavations confirm the importance of the site, the £101 million road will be built over it. Page 9

Harman saved

An attempt by Labour leftwingers to force Harriet Harman's early removal from the Shadow Cabinet was defeated. Page 11

Nuclear waste war

Germany's nuclear "war" came to an almost operatic climax as a cargo of highly radioactive waste reprocessed in France reached its final burial ground in a north German woodland. Page 12

Holocaust debate

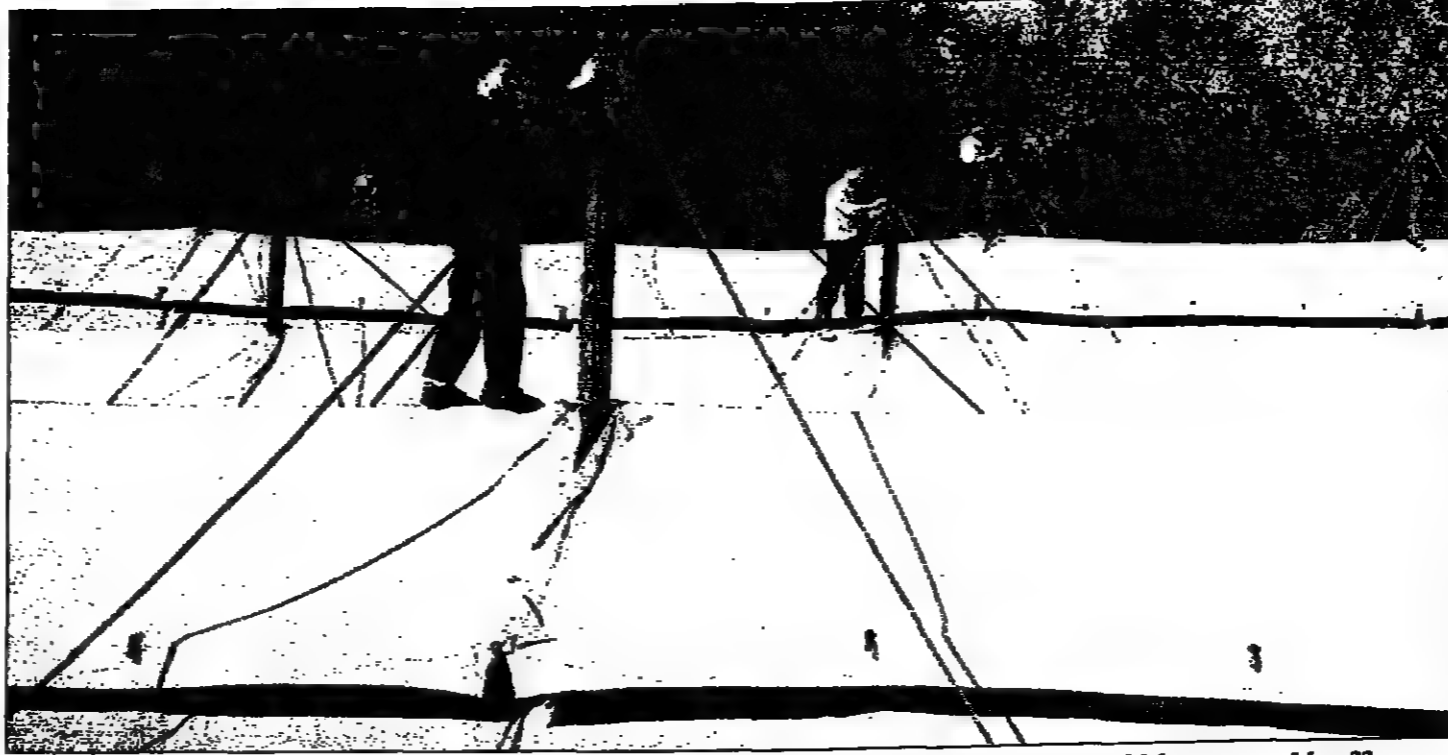
Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, plunged into the middle of a fierce debate about the Holocaust by saying that Germans should no longer bear collective guilt. Page 13

Barry holed up

Eleven days after Marion Barry announced he was starting a retreat to seek "spiritual and physical renewal" Washington's black Mayor was still holed up in Missouri. Page 14

Rainbow constitution

South Africa adopted a constitution which, said its negotiator, is the "birth certificate" of the Rainbow Nation. Page 15



Workman erecting the 3.5 acre tent that will be the centrepiece of the Chelsea Flower Show which opens on May 23

SPORT

Labour has proposals to abolish the youth training scheme as part of a package to reshape training of the over-16s. Page 25

Economy: Kenneth Clarke apparently resisted growing pressure for a rate cut after his monthly meeting with the Bank of England ended with no sign of the Bank adjusting its lending rates. Page 25

Insurance: The Royal Bank of Scotland has dropped plans to float its telephone insurer Direct Line after pre-tax profits at the subsidiary fell by £40 million to £5 million for the first half of the year. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 15.7 points to 3707.3. Sterling rose from 83.9 to 84.1 after a rise from \$1.514 to \$1.562 and from DM2.293 to DM2.3019. Page 28



ARTS

New films: Mr Holland's Opus presents Richard Dreyfuss in a wishful vision of small-town America, while drama and mayhem on the high seas provide Ridley Scott's *White Squall*. Page 37

New videos: Sandra Bullock in *The Net*; Nicole Kidman in *To Die For*; and a 21st birthday edition of *The Rocky Horror Show* releases reviewed by Geoff Brown. Page 38

Laughs abound: *Mind Millie for Me*, a version of Feydeau's farce, is played for laughs and bitter truths in Peter Hall's production starring Felicity Kendal. Page 39

Ballet bow: Christopher Dean makes his first work for a ballet company, and proves that his talent doesn't just extend to the ice rink. Page 39

TODAY

IN THE TIMES

BOOKS OFFER
Collect tokens for six of the best summer paperbacks for as little as £1.65 each

INTERVIEW
Valerie Grove meets Helena Bonham Carter, on the eve of the publication of the diaries of her grandmother, Lady Violet

FEATURES

See you in court: When Doris Duke died, she left her fortune to her butler. But other staff members are fighting the decision. Page 17

Motherly advice: Prunella Biance founded the National Childbirth Trust 40 years ago. Her mission was to imbue women with the need to give birth naturally. Page 16

Search for truth: Colin Tudge examines the end of the world: Anthony Holden investigates Shakespeare; Lord Longford on Erskine Childers. Pages 40-41

TRAVEL

In the dark: A woman who went to see Father Christmas in Lapland is suing a travel agent because she was not told it was cold. Pages 22, 23

FOCUS

UCL hospitals: A report on the combination of research and medicine under the University College London umbrella. Pages 33-35

THE PAPERS

The international war crimes tribunal for ex-Yugoslavia has begun its first trial in The Hague. If the international community wishes to avoid a repetition of those crimes committed in the name of "ethnic cleansing", Dusan Tadic must not be the only one to be placed in the dock. — El Pais, Madrid

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Old Eurohands remember Britain's attempts to join the EEC. *The Poisoned Chalice* (BBC2, 9.30pm) Review: Peter Barnard on role reversals. Page 47

OPINION

Flout it

The mood of the Sixties was swinging and wide-eyed; today's young artists are of a wiser disposition. They tend to deal in debris, not dreams. They are here. We should flout them. Page 19

Vanishing tax cuts

Almost unnoticed, the Government's fiscal position has so deteriorated that there may be no room for tax cuts. If so, the Tories' election campaign will have to be rethought. So may its timing. Page 19

Union Jacques

Perhaps there should be a competition for a flag specifically designed to suit the Europe of today. A tricolour of straight sausage, cucumber, and banana perhaps? Or a Union Jacques to accompany the EuroDelors. Page 19

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Gordon Brown and Jacques Chirac both have two-chamber minds. When they make speeches they draw alternately on each and mix the two gases in a lethal cocktail of confusion. Page 18

JOHN BRYANT

Women in sport, according to Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympics, "have but one task: that of the role of crowning the victor with garlands". The late Beryl Burton, a remarkable cyclist, demonstrated that a woman could beat men in sport. Page 46

PETER RIDDELL

So much for Tory unity. All the pious appeals by ministers over the weekend were brushed aside as Tory MPs indulged in infighting as usual. Page 10

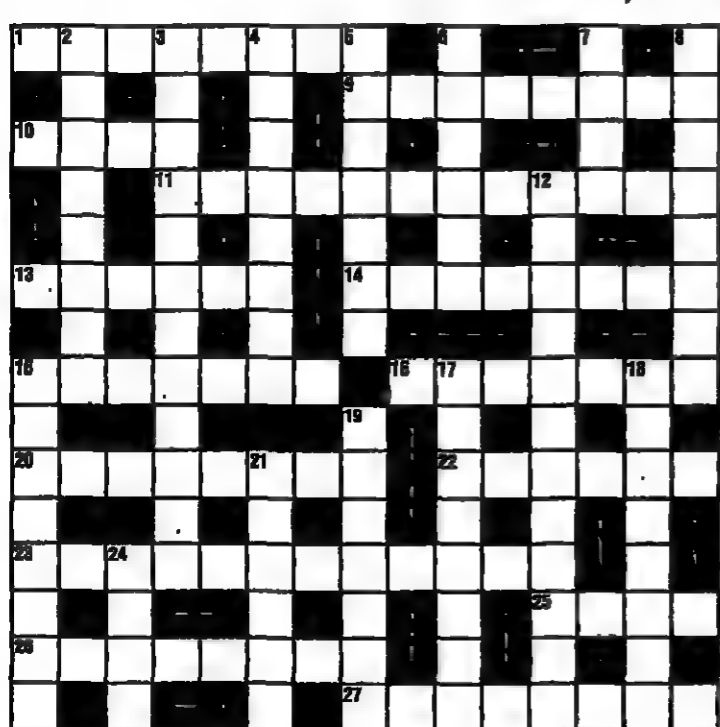
OBITUARIES

Sir Howard Smith, British Ambassador in Moscow; Prebendary Donald Cleverley Ford, Archbishop of Canterbury's chaplain; Marjorie Lee, of the Dorchester Hotel; David Kennedy, US secretary of the Treasury. Page 21

LETTERS

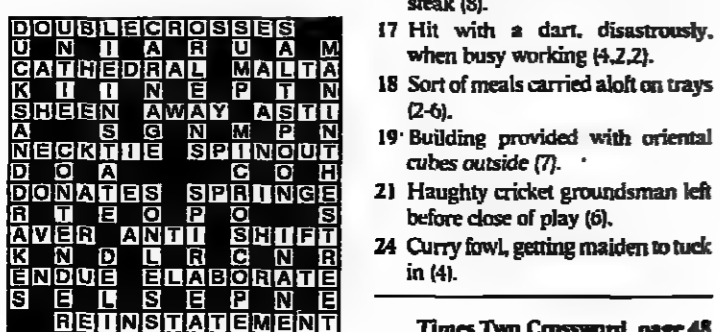
MPs' earnings; windfarms; British coal; care of Kenwood. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,163



- ACROSS**
- Concerted attack affected gain badly (8).
 - Whine in the old days for wealth (5).
 - Bounce up and down in journey on river (4).
 - A charger for those dismounting on the way (7-5).
 - Knock back alcohol within the limit (6).
 - A large number agree it's sufficient (8).
 - Very narrow rule journalist pretended to attack (7).
 - Frame a description of the world's state, according to O'Casey (7).
 - The Duke of Wellington certainly isn't such a painting (8).
 - Make more space for a ferry going out (6).
- DOWN**
- Oil container? (7-5).
 - Close in hard trap, after turning back (4).
 - Representing limbs with coy excitement (8).
 - Request to picnic, say, in field (8).
 - Person leaving party as teatime spills (8).
 - Publicist for heathen district (12).
 - Alight over the border and trespass (8).
 - Peppercorn no bird left (7).
 - Soldier in Cornish resort gets the bird (6).
 - Young Marlowe receives new contract (4).
 - Soldiers from Aberdeen and Norfolk, for example (8).
 - Queen's entire assembly one's seen riding side-saddle (12).
 - Dowdy alewife, say, devouring streak (8).
 - Hit with a dart, disastrously, when busy working (4,2,2).
 - Sort of meals carried aloft on trays (2-6).
 - Building provided with oriental cubes outside (7).
 - Haughty cricket groundsman left before close of play (6).
 - Curry fowl, getting maiden to tuck in (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,162





ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

When all currencies are weak, what about gold?



HOSPITALS 33-35

Lighting a candle for medical research



BOOKS 40, 41

The romantic who wrote The Riddle of the Sands

VENABLES
KEEPS HIS
OPTIONS OPEN
SPORT 42-48

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MAY 9 1996

Labour aims to scrap Youth Training programme

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR will abolish the Government's youth training scheme as part of an ambitious package to reshape post-16 training, according to proposals about to be announced. The abolition of the Youth Training programme, widely criticised now for failing to provide sufficiently high-quality industrial training for young people, is a key element in a new training package worth up to £1.5 billion to be unveiled later this month by Labour.

The move follows Labour's abandonment of a levy on employers to

fund training, and its adoption instead of Tessa-style individual learning accounts (ILAs), coupled with tax incentives for companies which provide training. Labour is pleased with the response from business to its plans to provide £150 grants for 1 million people to start their individual accounts.

Labour's new proposals will focus on training provision for 16 to 25-year-olds, and include the controversial idea that the party is considering of moving away from universal provision of child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds.

The ILA package, for training people in work, amounts to only

about £300 million, but Labour's proposals for 16 to 25-year-olds will be contained in a package amounting to about £1.5 billion or more, with the aim of funding high quality training for young people in this target group.

New Labour wants to move away from high throughput but low quality training schemes, with the aim of providing high quality training in fit with Labour's plans for a high value-added economy, rather than one competing on the basis of low skills and low wages.

The package will include proposals to abolish the current Youth Training programme, set up by the

Government in 1990 in succession to the highly-criticised Youth Training Scheme. YT currently offers places to some 277,000 young people, but Labour leaders now feel it too no longer offers high quality training.

Labour leaders, who will emphasise that the cost of the new scheme can be met from existing resources, calculate that YT abolition will free some £500 million for a new, higher-quality scheme. If abolition of universal child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds goes ahead — Labour says that 53 per cent of eligible parents no longer take it up — that could add a further £700 million.

Labour wants to move away from

"revolving door" training schemes, which offer a period of training and then leave people unemployed again. Labour will, instead of YT, propose a scheme currently called Target 2000, which will aim to provide for all those of school-leaving age basic standards of literacy, numeracy, team and information technology skills which business leaders have told Labour that they want.

Labour is also considering an addition to the Investors in People training standard, which a growing number of companies are adopting as a way of improving their training and people management abilities.

Labour's proposals are likely to include a new Investors in Young People standard, which would be granted to employers in recognition of training levels for young people in particular.

In addition, Labour is preparing a further set of policies to deal with disadvantaged over-25s in the labour market — in particular, new proposals on childcare for working women, in line with its forthcoming welfare-to-work strategy, and proposals on training, rebuilding self-confidence and re-establishing contact with work for the long-term unemployed who have been out of work for more than a year.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	5707.3	(-15.7)
Yield	4.01%	
FT-SE All share	1870.23	(-7.88)
Nikkei	21728.60	(+233.32)
Dow Jones	5364.59	(-58.35)
S&P Composite	651.32	(-5.94)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	8 3/8%	(8 3/8%)
Yield	7.59%	(7.08%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	8%	(8%)
Life long gilt	10 1/8%	(10 1/8%)
Future (Jun)	10 1/8%	(10 1/8%)

STERLING

New York	1.5218*	(1.5107)
London	1.5182	(1.5113)
DM	2.3019	(2.2981)
FF	7.7915	(7.7748)
Sfr	1.6705	(1.6744)
Yen	169.56	(168.67)
S Index	84.1	(83.8)

US DOLLAR

London	1.5188*	(1.5257)
DM	6.1270*	(5.1550)
FF	1.2522*	(1.2445)
Sfr	165.16*	(165.21)
S Index	85.2	(85.2)

Tokyo close Yen 105.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	\$18.40	(\$18.25)
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EURO

London close	\$304.56	(\$303.85)
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* denotes midday trading price

RBS scraps Direct Line flotation

By Marianne Curphey

THE Royal Bank of Scotland has dropped any plans to float its telephone insurer Direct Line after pre-tax profits at the subsidiary fell £40 million to £5 million for the first half of the year.

Direct Line's results underlined the current turmoil in the insurance industry, which has suffered from intense competition and a rush of late entrants into the direct market. It is the largest private motor insurer in the UK with a 14 per cent share of the market and 2.2 million policyholders.

RBS group pre-tax profit for the half year was up 11 per cent to £301 million (£270 million), George Mathewson, chief executive,

said he would consider growth through acquisition "if the price and fit were right".

He said some building societies "could be interesting" to buy, but said any deal would have to be amicable. "We are not in the game of making hostile bids because you end up paying too much."

Peter Wood, Direct Line's chairman, said motor premiums in general had fallen 20 per cent in two years and current rates were "unsustainable". He gave warning that further consolidation was inevitable and said smaller motor insurers were prime takeover targets. "If the price and the timing was right we would consider acquisitions, but we are in no hurry," he said.

Two household names in insurance, Sun Alliance and Royal Insurance, last week announced plans to merge and analysts speculated that General Accident, one of the six largest composite insurers, might launch a bid for its rival Guardian.

Dr Mathewson said there were "no plans" to float Direct Line. However, he said there were opportunities to develop sales of Direct Line's financial products, including the selling of mortgages and deposit accounts.

Mr Wood blamed the fall in profits for the six months to March 31 on bad weather and on competition. He said Direct Line would increase motor rates by up to 4 per cent this year and predicted the rest of the industry would increase rates by an average 10 to 15 per cent by December. "We have been feeling the pain but our costs are the lowest in the

industry, so our rivals must have been feeling even more," he said. Weather claims cost £22 million for the six months, of which £16 million was claims from householders whose pipes had burst in the cold snap over Christmas.

The cost of reducing premiums to win business from rivals cost Direct Line a further £25 million. Premium income fell 0.7 per cent even though the number of policyholders increased in the motor and household markets.

The City was pleased with the results for RBS, where Lord Younger of Prestwick is chairman and Bob Speirs group finance director. "The shares rose 6p to 528p. Costs look well under control, bad debts are in line and Direct Line was only as bad as expected," one analyst said.

In RBS's UK banking divisions, profit before tax increased 23 per cent to £246 million (£200 million). In branch banking, where 730 staff have been cut as part of an overhaul of operations, pre-tax profit increased by 22 per cent to a record £129 million and at the corporate and institutional banking division by 29 per cent to £94 million. The operations division increased its profit 10 per cent to £23 million.

Earnings per share were 21.3p (20.1p) and the dividend per share is 5.4p (4.6p).

The income ratio for the group improved to 49.9 per cent with expenses up 3 per cent and provision for bad debts was reduced by £25 million to £45 million.

Tempus, page 28
City Diary, page 29



Bob Speirs, left, Lord Younger and George Mathewson yesterday pleased the City

Lang to clarify power policy

By Christine Buckley

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, is today expected to shed light on the Government's highly criticised policy of the electricity industry.

Mr Lang will use a speech to the Adam Smith Institute, the free-market think-tank, to explain recent Government decisions that have surprised the City and the industry. These include the blocking of the generators' bids for regional electricity companies.

Mr Lang, who last week committed the Government to maintaining its golden shares in the big two generators, is under pressure to reveal a coherent policy for electricity after a spate of takeovers and doubts over the acceptability of vertical integration and competition in generation.

Pressure for clarification of Government policy yesterday intensified as it emerged that Southern Company, the US power company which said it wanted to merge with National Power, the UK's largest generator, is holding talks with the DTI, Office and the OFT.

Southern said it had relinquished the fight for National Power after the golden share commitment effectively scuppered its pursuit. It said it was working with regulatory authorities to "overcome barriers to market entry in electricity generation and supply".

The company, in a bowed-but-not-defeated stance, said: "The UK electricity industry remains attractive for the Southern Company, which last year made an investment of £1.1 billion in buying Sweb".

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, is today holding meetings with investment analysts. The regulator is also seeking to clarify the regulatory issues facing the sector.

UBS lifts house price forecast

By Sara McConnell

HOUSING analysts at UBS yesterday raised their house price forecast for 1996 from 2 to 5 per cent. Its revised forecast follows sharp rises in the Halifax price index over the past three months and nine successive monthly increases.

Other commentators will almost certainly follow suit. The Halifax said it would review its present forecast of 2 per cent at the end of this month. Helen Dunn, the Halifax's economist said: "The direction will be upwards when we review." But Ms Dunn said that the market was fragmented, with good properties selling quickly while others stuck.

Prices are now set to peak in 1998, growing 9 per cent year on year, UBS predicts. The south of the country is expected to lead the recovery, but UBS is not expecting a return of the huge north-south house price divides of the 1980s. Northern Ireland, Greater London and Wales will see the strongest price rises this year.

Rob Thomas, UBS housing specialist, said: "Rarely have there been so few clouds on the housing market's horizon. Housing is more affordable than it has been for a generation, mortgage rates are at their lowest level since the mid-1960s."

UBS expects 1.2 million homes to change hands in 1996, compared with its previous prediction of 1.25 million. But this would still be a 6 per cent rise on transaction levels in 1995.

Price rises will mean a fall in the numbers of people in negative equity by almost half to 590,000 by the end of this year, compared with 960,000 in the first quarter of the year.

Pay storm brewing for BNB Resources meeting

By Jon Ashworth

TROUBLE is brewing at BNB Resources, the training group that owns Norman Broadbent International (NBI), the executive search firm. Mass defections and spiralling salaries are expected to dominate proceedings when shareholders gather for BNB's annual meeting on May 23.

Questions will focus on the expanded role of David Norman, the BNB chairman, whose remuneration climbed to £765,000 (£679,000) in the year to December 31, according to

BNB's newly issued annual report. Mr Norman was paid £366,000 in salary and fees, and earned a £368,000 bonus. Other benefits, including cars, travel, telephone and medical insurance, amounted to £31,000. Mr Norman's salary includes £67,000 in lieu of pension contributions.

Shareholders are expected to question the departure of Miles Broadbent, who "retired" as chairman of NBI in February, after a split with Mr Norman. Mr Broadbent, 60, has formed a new agency, the Miles

Partnership, and is intent on building a thriving practice. Three former colleagues, Julian Sainy, Christopher Beaton-Hird, and Ralph Grayson, left in March to form Sainy Hird & Partners, another London agency. The trio formerly comprised NBI's financial services practice.

Further reports of resignations at NBI's office in New York could not be confirmed yesterday, although Roger Quick, former head of the Chicago office, was recently drafted in to take charge of US operations.

BNB last year increased pre-tax

profits by 58 per cent, to £5.7 million. Under a lock-in clause, Mr Broadbent and the Sainy trio must pay 50 per cent of their earnings over the next 12 months to NBI.

Mr Broadbent was ousted at a BNB board meeting last October, after an extraordinary display of boardroom gymnastics. Intent on becoming chairman of both NBI and BNB, Mr Norman packed the board in his favour, appointing ten new directors, three of whom were secretaries. Non-executive directors including Sir Peter Holmes, former

chairman of Shell Transport and Trading, resigned in protest.

Mr Broadbent agreed to work until his 60th birthday on February in return for his share of 1995 profits — effectively a golden handshake that funded his new venture.

Mr Broadbent declined to comment on his dealings with NBI. Newly settled with two researchers in premises in Park Lane, he said: "As far as I'm concerned, it's business as usual, but under a different partnership. I'm not dead yet. I have not retired."

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Nuclear buyers will have to foot clean-up bill

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday agreed that Britain's nuclear industry liabilities will have to be accepted by any buyer of the industry on privatisation.

Ministers acknowledged that this principle will be followed in the planned sale of the nuclear industry in its response to a report on the privatisation from the all-party Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee — though some MPs believe that if this idea is properly applied, it will make any sale of nuclear highly unlikely.

The committee strongly recommended that regardless of the level of nuclear liabilities for disposing of waste and decommissioning nuclear stations at the end of their lives — which

could be up to £8 billion — those liabilities should follow the assets from which they arose.

In its response, published yesterday, the Government said it "agrees strongly" with the committee on the issue, and said: "The Government can confirm that this principle has been followed."

The Government also set out in its reply the provisions that will be made for the so-called segregated fund that it has now set up to ensure that the taxpayer will not be left with the cost of nuclear liabilities after privatisation.

Full details of contributions for the fund are to be included in the forthcoming prospectus for the sale of British Energy, still set for summer. However, before that, the Government's

statement yesterday said that, on privatisation, Nuclear Electric will pay £157 million to the fund initially, and Scottish Nuclear £71 million. Thereafter NE will make annual payments of £12 million, and SN £4 million, for the following 40 years.

The Government, which said that such levels of provision were "prudent", said that the fund will seek to hold assets equal to 110 per cent of accrued discounted decommissioning liabilities — though Labour MPs suggested that revaluations of the assets could substantially affect the level of liabilities and therefore the size of the fund.

Labour dismissed the Government's response, arguing that it would do nothing to

dampen public disquiet over nuclear privatisation — and especially over the likely low sale price.

Margaret Beckett, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "Labour, like many nuclear industry experts, remains unconvinced by the Government's assertions that all the liabilities will follow the assets from which they arose. Clear facts and figures on this issue should be published now to dispel growing scepticism."

Mrs Beckett said that the Government had failed to answer the simple question of why the privatisation of the eight most modern nuclear power generating plants is expected to raise less than the cost of building one of them.

Nynex loss narrows

Nynex CableComms, the second largest cable company, reported a pre-tax loss of £23.4 million in the quarter to March 31, against a loss of £25.9 million in the same period a year ago, on turnover that almost doubled to £32.5 million.

The company said it found the results "highly encouraging" because of the strong overall revenue growth and because it was able to maintain its profit margins on the telephone service despite undercutting BT's prices by as much as 25 per cent.

Cable-TV margins were down because the company, in an effort to increase penetration rates, did not pass on price rises from programme suppliers. Shares held at 123p.

L&G equity move

Fund managers at Legal & General Investment Management said yesterday they had reduced their exposure to UK equities, preferring to increase cash holdings, after the FT-SE 100 index peaked above 3,850 two weeks ago. They said they expected the index to bounce back from its current weakness to 4,000 in coming weeks, but would use this strength to further reduce exposure.

"Although we are happy to remain modestly overweight, we plan to fully neutralise when the market reaches around 4,000," said David Shaw, strategy director.

Geoffrey Barnett

Geoffrey Barnett, former chief operating officer at Barings, has been completely exonerated by the Securities and Futures Authority and no action will be taken against him (report, yesterday).

Business confidence has dipped, says CBI

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS confidence is down in most regions of Britain, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday — while engineering employers said that economic recovery would be a "long and slow process".

The latest state-of-industry surveys from British business confirmed the generally gloomy outlook for UK manufacturing, though other industrial evidence suggests that the service sector is performing much better. The CBI will tomorrow publish new figures on high street sales.

In its latest regional industrial trends survey, the CBI said that confidence fell in all but two areas of Britain — the South East and the North West — with some very large falls in other areas, including a net balance of a third of all companies surveyed in the North saying confidence is now worse and 31 per cent in the South West.

Manufacturing orders fell sharply in six regions in the four months to April, the CBI said, with companies in Wales, Yorkshire and Humberside showing the greatest fall in orders. Areas where export orders are rising, including Scotland and the East Midlands, saw rises in orders overall.

While firms in eight regions, led by the South East, North West and East Midlands, expect orders to increase over the next four months, CBI analysts acknowledge that recent surveys have shown that expectations have not been met. The survey, carried out by the CBI with Business

Strategies, the regional consultants, and covering more than 1,200 companies, showed that manufacturing employment is expected to fall in six regions, and is flat in four others, with only marginal growth in Northern Ireland.

The findings on jobs confirm the scepticism about the Government's own figures for manufacturing employment expressed recently in a leaked letter by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade.

CBI leaders said that the results showed that industry's costs and prices around the country were generally well under control. Investment in the Midlands and Wales is expected to grow the fastest in the UK, while in all but four areas of Britain a net majority of firms said they were working below capacity.

Recovery will be long and slow, the BEF engineering employers, said. In its latest economic trends, the BEF said that total engineering output is set to grow by almost 3 per cent over the next year.

Graham Mackenzie, BEF director-general, said: "The engineering industry continues to shrug off the high street, and export-based growth continues in this key sector of the UK economy." Richard Holt, a CBI director, said the survey results were consistent with slow economic growth.

He said the CBI is reviewing its UK GDP growth forecast and is likely to revise it downwards to about 2 to 2.5 per cent. However, he said businesses were optimistic for the second half of the year.



Peter Jarvis, left, and Sir Michael Angus, chairman

Brewer toasts revival in beer

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

WHITBREAD, the brewing and leisure company, yesterday signalled a revival in the brewing industry as it unveiled an 11 per cent increase in full-year pre-tax profits, excluding non-operating items, to £283 million.

Peter Jarvis, chief executive, said the beer market grew by 1.4 per cent last year, while the outlook for pubs continued to improve as growth in food sales outstripped a decline in on-site beer sales. He repeated a call for UK duty on beer to be brought into line with the rest of Europe to curb smuggling.

Overall turnover, for the 53 weeks to March 2, 1996, increased by 11 per cent to £275 billion.

Profits in the brewing division increased by 11 per cent to £45 million, boosted by a strong performance from the premium brand beers that make up 70 per cent of all Whitbread drink sales.

The Inns division, which includes the Brewers Fayre and Hogshead chains, increased profits by 13.1 per cent to £130 million, helped by the hot summer and all-day Sunday opening. Whitbread's pub partnerships also increased profits by 1.9 per cent to £59.2 million from 200 fewer pubs than in the previous year.

The restaurants and leisure division, which includes the Beefeater and Pizza Hut chains as well as the hotel groups, increased profits by 34 per cent to £88.3 million. Whitbread did not rule out further acquisitions this year.

The total dividend was increased by 8 per cent to 21.2p. A final dividend of 16.1p is payable on July 19. The shares fell 8.5p to 757.5p due to profit-taking.

Pennington, page 27

French protest against Eurotunnel's creditors

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

MORE than 500 French Eurotunnel shareholders travelled to the cross-Channel terminal at Calais yesterday to demonstrate against the actions of the company's creditors.

Unlike their British counterparts, who have been vocal in their protest, yesterday's demonstration was the first time that French shareholders have taken public action. In the past British shareholders have expressed disappointment at what they saw as a slow response on the part of the French investors.

This display of Gallic inaction appears to now be at an end as the shareholders, bearing placards reading "Bankers are crooks" and "Euro-hoodlums",

marched several miles yesterday. All have seen the value of their shares plummet and fear losing half of their capital to Eurotunnel's creditors. They are particularly angry that the French and British Governments have avoided Eurotunnel's problems.

"We have only our own resources to count on now. The authorities have washed their hands of the matter," said Christian Cambier, president of the largest French shareholders' pressure group, the Association pour l'Action Eurotunnel (AAE), which he created four years ago and which boasts 2,600 members.

Also participating in the protest were members of the Association de defense des

actionnaires d'Eurotunnel, a more recent, and reputedly more hardline, group.

According to Sophie L'Hellias, the chosen representative of the two groups, the shareholders' objective is to obtain the maximum number of votes in order to influence the restructuring plan now in negotiation between the company and its creditors. They aim to achieve reimbursement by immediately taking half of the capital and obtaining the rest over the next four years from the company's earnings.

Before returning to Paris, the shareholders signed a petition calling on President Jacques Chirac "to intervene with the weight of his authority".

Big European staff agencies to merge

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE two biggest temporary staff agencies in Europe are to merge, creating a £4 billion a year business they claim will leapfrog Manpower of the US into world leadership.

Adia of Switzerland, which owns Alfred Marks in Britain, has launched an agreed offer for Ecco, its larger French rival. In a move expected to trigger wider consolidation in the industry.

The combined group will be market leader in France, Spain, Canada, South America and South East Asia. Combined, the directors claim an 8 per cent share of a world market worth about £50 billion that is growing at around 15 per cent a year.

Although Manpower has revenues of \$6.85 billion and

enjoys a similar market share, Adia/Ecco says that on a like-for-like basis, adjusted for franchisees' income, it will have a larger turnover. The new group will have 2,400 branches, in 36 countries, and a workforce of 300,000.

Philippe Foriel-Destezet, Ecco's founder and chairman, has promised to accept the offer of 1,028 new Adia shares for each Ecco share in respect of his 46 per cent stake.

In a simultaneous restructuring, Ecco will buy in the 16 per cent minority holding in Ecco TT, its main French and Spanish operating company. The merger will require approval from European competition authorities.

World of temping, page 29

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

GEC-Marconi picked for design venture

GEC-MARCONI, the defence arm of Britain's General Electric Company, has been chosen by Boeing to design the avionics for a next generation fighter plane to replace the British Aerospace Harrier and the McDonnell Douglas F16 Eagle. The Boeing/GEC team will design a new short take-off, vertical-landing jet in competition with McDonnell Douglas/British Aerospace and Lockheed Martin. The teams are competing for a \$10 billion contract under the Anglo-American joint advanced strike technology programme. The prize will be direction of a project expected to supply up to 3,000 aircraft.

Meanwhile, Pratt & Whitney and General Electric, America's two leading jet engine makers, are joining forces to develop a new engine for Boeing's planned super-jumbo. The rivals said they would form a 50/50 joint venture to develop engine providing thrust of 72,000 lb to 84,000 lb. Rolls-Royce, the British aero-engine group, has developed a new engine, the Trent 700, which could power the planned jet.

Lucas rules out offer

LUCAS INDUSTRIES, the car components manufacturer discussing a link with Varty Corporation, yesterday ruled out the possibility of receiving an offer from its US suitor. The statement, prompted by pressure from the Takeover Panel, led to a 6½p fall in Lucas shares, closing at 227p. Reports of the possible tie-up between Lucas and Varty, a US components supplier, have prompted a wave of buying of Lucas shares. Lucas is nearly twice the size of Varty, which has sales last year of \$2.4 billion.

Berkshire widens terms

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INC, billionaire investor Warren Buffett's investment company, has increased for the fourth time the offering of its lower-priced Class B common stock. Mr Buffett is offering the B shares to try to thwart plans by investment firms to set up unit trusts that would invest in Berkshire A shares — the highest-priced stock on Wall Street. In an unusual filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Mr Buffett said the offering would be tailored so that buyers seeking quick profits "are almost certain to be disappointed".

Schering 16% ahead

SCHERING, the German pharmaceutical group, saw first-quarter profits grow by 16 per cent, to DM131 million, from DM113 million in 1995's first quarter. It attributed the rise to more favourable exchange rates. Group sales rose 5 per cent, to DM1.21 billion, from DM1.15 billion. Schering said growth in net profits for all 1996 is expected to be "double-digit", with group sales projected to rise about 9 per cent. First-quarter overseas sales rose 5.5 per cent, to DM1 billion, 84 per cent of group sales. Domestic sales rose 2.1 per cent, to DM191 million.

Part-timers 'lose leave'

ALMOST one in three part-timers receive no annual holiday from work, highlighting the "divide" with full-timers, Labour claimed yesterday. David Blunkett, Shadow Education and Employment spokesman, told a TUC conference that 1.7 million part-timers have no annual leave, while thousands of others get no more than ten days. Part-time workers are also a third less likely to receive training than people in full-time employment. The conference was part of the TUC's campaign to win minimum standards at work.

America's moderate pace

AMERICA'S economy was growing at a moderate pace in the last two months, with little sign of any inflationary pressures, according to a survey of regional business conditions by the Federal Reserve. The survey by the Fed's 12 regional banks showed all districts except New York were sharing in the expansion. "Price increases remained generally subdued and there were only scattered reports of wage pressures despite continued tight labor market and somewhat stronger economic growth," the survey summary said.

Cadbury confident

CADBURY SCHWEPPE'S, the confectionery and soft drinks company, said that trading conditions so far this year have been "satisfactory". Dominic Cadbury, chairman, told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting he was confident that 1996 would be another year of growth despite the short term impact of a £35 million provision associated with the restructuring of the soft drinks business in France. Mr Cadbury also said the company was still considering an additional American Depository Receipt offering.

EU growth forecast

THE European Union's economic growth rate this year will be "markedly less than 2 per cent, less than forecast", Yves-Thibault de Silguy, EU Finance Commissioner, said. In his annual economic report M de Silguy also said that the budget deficits of EU members now average 5 per cent of GDP, against the planned 4.7 per cent. The EU economic convergence criteria calls for members wanting to take part in the single currency to have a budget deficit of no more than 3 per cent of GDP.

One-2-One's new chief

MERCURY One-2-One, the mobile phone operator owned equally by Cable and Wireless and US West, the regional phone company, has hired Jan Peters as managing director. Ms Peters, 44, currently president of US West's wireless operations, will replace Richard Goswell next month when he becomes chief executive of C&W's operations in South-East Asia and the Pacific. She is the first female managing director appointed to one of Britain's four mobile phone operators.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	1.98	1.82
Austria Sch	17.23	16.73
Belgium Fr	66.36	49.06
Canada \$	2.170	2.010
Cyprus Cyp£	0.768	0.760
Denmark Kr	5.51	5.71
Finland Mk	5.81	5.71
France Fr	6.21	7.15
Germany DM	2.48	2.25
Greece Dr	384.00	369.00
Hong Kong \$	12.23	11.33
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.3000	4.8900
Italy Lit	2,684.00	2,330.00
Japan Yen	173.30	157.30
Malta	0.597	0.542
Netherlands Gld	2.730	2.500
New Zealand \$	2.35	2.14
Norway Kr	10.52	9.72
Portugal Esc	848.00	859.00
S Africa Rd	7.10	6.30
Spain Ptas	168.00	168.00
Sweden Fr	10.58	10.14
Switzerland Fr	2.01	1.83
Turkey Lira	1191.64	1111.64
USA \$	1.650	1.476

Prices for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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هكذا من الأصل

□ Political perils of gas regulation □ Whitbread sets the pace in the pub □ Labour's meter maid on the attack

Blockage in the pipeline

REGULATORS tend as a breed to be quiet male academics. Clare Spottiswoode at Ofgas sticks out from the bunch on three counts, being a woman and not by background an academic. She is also far from quiet.

This was the one, you will remember, who helpfully pointed out that her sole charge could easily go bust. She also favours the idea of combining all the various regulators under one umbrella organisation, run by one super-regulator. Ms Spottiswoode has not been shy in suggesting who she thinks this should be.

This display of ambition has not endeared her to her counterparts in other industries. Not to put too fine a point on it, several have seemed unwilling to share the same platform with her.

One of the weaknesses of the current regulatory system is that it places all the pressure on a single figure who can find himself, in the case of the unfortunate Stephen Littlechild at Ofwat, unknown one day and photographed and reviled in the tabloid press the next.

Another is that while the regulator has one chance to get it right, the regulated have two. A company unhappy with one of the periodic rulings on prices, for example, can send the case to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for a further judgment, which might be better or worse

than the regulator's. They therefore have two throws of the dice to the latter's one, and normal game theory says this gives them the advantage.

Next Monday Ms Spottiswoode will put this theory to the test again. She is to rule on the price cap that controls 40 per cent of British Gas's revenues, those that derive from the TransCo business being demerged next year. Her ruling is expected to be draconian — 8 per cent price cuts in the first year for consumers. This would play well with ministers, who harbour a powerful dislike for British Gas. The company is, along with National Grid, another Whitehall pariah, blamed for bringing the privatisation programme into disrepute with all of last year's fat-cattery, and Cedric Brown's early bath has done little to lessen this dislike.

So a robust line from Ms Spottiswoode would not do her own political prospects any harm. With this or any future Government of whatever hue, it would clobber Gas's thousands of private investors, but they should have seen trouble ahead

months ago. More significantly, it would leave British Gas little option but to look to the MMC for another throw of the dice.

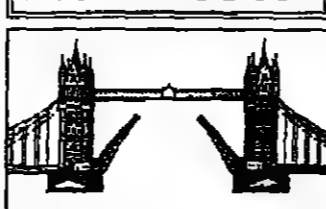
Here lies the problem. Within the company, the reasons for going to the MMC so seem to have less to do with the substantive issues and more with the hope that its members will be so baffled by the complexities of the case that they will come down somewhere between the company's position and that of the regulator, in an instinctive compromise. But if her tough line is weakened, this would do untold damage to her position. Not an easy job, is it, Ms Spottiswoode?

Reflecting the blindingly obvious

THOSE that can, do; those that can't go into marketing, a science that seems to involve the selling of the bleeding obvious to the entirely credulous. Take, as an example, the changing role of the traditional pub.

If a large number of your customers decide to trim the amount of ale poured down their

PENNINGTON



throats on a Friday or a Saturday night, then as a beer producer and seller you have just two options. You can produce less of the stuff, or you can sell them something else.

The first has happened, the amount of beer produced falling by 17 per cent since 1979. The second is where the marketing geniuses come in. Why not, said some bright spark circa 1986, try to make our pubs more welcoming to families, and sell them food rather than hard liquor?

The fruits of this blindingly obvious insight are on offer from Whitbread, which kicked off the brewers' reporting season. The group has concentrated on producing brands that command premium prices, aided by

the probably serendipitous purchase of Boddingtons, far and away the country's most successful take-home ale. At the same time, Whitbread is further down the line of any brewer in creating an estate of pubs that fits in with what its customers want.

This success is more of a reflection on its rivals' failures, however. It explains why, when Whitbread's total share of the ale market is static, the share of brands like Stella Artois, Boddingtons and Murphy's stout has grown. It also explains why the turnover of the average Whitbread outlet is running 7 per cent ahead of the competition.

It explains, further, why Whitbread shares already sell on 15.5 times this year's earnings, based on upgraded figures from NatWest Securities, which does not offer much upside for them. But Whitbread's ability to reinvent itself as a successful retailer and niche brewer throws the emphasis on failings elsewhere in the sector — namely Bass's rather less impressive retail estate and Allied Domecq's inability to extricate itself from

the Carlsberg-Tetley brewing joint venture. The market is looking for news on the latter, at least, very soon.

Disconnected from reality

GENERATIONS of beset students cursed when they ran out of change for the gas meter. Little did they realise, however, that they were actually victims of society — operating in this case via the evil state gas monopoly.

Nor did the evil monopolies. Pre-payment meters have been introduced by the more socially sensitive electricity and water companies over the past decade to make sure that poor people are not deprived of essential services if they cannot pay the hefty bills delivered by utilities periodically before and after privatisation.

Information technology has turned an old-fashioned and expensive method of paying into a civilised way to avoid potentially harmful disconnections. Offers of pre-payment meters to defaulters, bad risks and the uncreditworthy also separate "can't pay"

sheep from "won't pay" goats. Or so it seemed. Labour MPs put a rather different gloss on it in the Commons yesterday.

Pre-payment water meters would be outlawed under a Labour government, according to Joan Ruddock, new Labour's ideologically challenged environment mouthpiece. Pre-payment meters were a sneaky "disconnection by the back door", avoiding an expensive court case and denying human rights.

A Liberal Democrat — who else — called for some undefinable middle way between the "black and white solution" of full service or full disconnection. Clearly, this is the philosophical gap new Labour plans to fill.

Gone, not forgotten

FAST-MOVING business, building. Tarmac's annual report, out yesterday, contains one of those grim photocalls of directors engaged in self-conscious chatter. They include one Barry Myers, who unfortunately parted company with the rest a couple of weeks ago after what was described as a personality clash. A po-faced Tarmac spokesman says it was a "difficult decision" whether or not to pulp the accounts, but the company's green credentials could not countenance the point-less sacrifice of so many trees.

Tate & Lyle forecasts cut after warning

By PAUL DURMAN

RISING corn prices and increased competition have dealt a heavier blow than expected to Tate & Lyle, the sugar and sweeteners company.

Sir Neil Shaw, chairman, gave warning that this year's profits will be slightly lower than expected at the time of the last annual meeting.

This prompted a wave of downgrades by analysts. Sally Jones, of Credit Lyonnais Laing, has cut her profit forecast for this year from £308 million to £295 million. Tate & Lyle's shares lost 14p to end the day at 462p.

Yesterday's interim figures, for the period to March 31, show a 10.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £168.2 million. Earnings per share were 9 per cent ahead, at 23p.

However, Sir Neil said that profits from Staley, the important US business that makes sweeteners from corn, were "trending sharply lower". Profits in the six months from the US sweeteners and starch business fell from £91.4 million to £78.7 million.

Heavy demand for corn from China and Russia and low stocks have caused the price to almost double to \$4.75 a bushel. Increased competi-

tion has made it difficult for Staley to pass on the price increases to drink producers and other customers.

Tate & Lyle enjoyed higher profits from its European business, which made £77.8 million (£59.4 million). Results from both the sugar and cereal operations improved. Tate & Lyle is increasingly using wheat as a raw material; it has converted its London plant, and is building a wheat starch plant in France.

The company's developing operations in the rest of the world also took a big step forward, making £19 million.

Tate & Lyle continues to invest heavily, spending £125 million in the first half and planning to spend more in the second. As well as cost-cutting at Staley and Tate & Lyle Sugars, it has invested in Vietnam, Thailand and India.

The poor short-term outlook was highlighted by a modest 1 per cent rise in the interim dividend, to 5.3p a share.

Tate & Lyle is cutting the cost of its financing by redeeming a £190.5 million bond issue made in 1988. The debt is to be rolled over into cheaper bonds.

Tempus, page 28

Profits pull ahead at News Int

By ERIC ROSELY

NEWSPAPER circulation and cover price increases lifted the third-quarter profits of News International, owner of The Times. The gains, however, were not enough to offset lower earnings from Fox Broadcasting and Star TV.

The News Corporation's operating profits before abnormal items fell 3 per cent to \$211 million on revenue of \$2.3 billion, up 7 per cent. This left the operating profit for the nine-month period at \$703 million, down 2 per cent, on revenue of \$7.3 billion, up 10 per cent.

The company said the results reflected higher licence fees and promotional costs at Fox Broadcasting and greater programming expenses and satellite transponder costs at Star TV in Asia.

At its annual meeting in October, News Corp said it expected Star to lose up to \$80 million in the current financial year. The TV division's overall operating profits fell from \$85 million to \$59 million in the quarter. After abnormal items, News Corp reported a profit of \$59 million against \$188 million.

Broken Arrow and Braveheart helped to lift the film division's operating profits 31 per cent to \$47 million. The newspaper division, supported by an 8 per cent gain from the four British papers, reported a 3.5 per cent gain in operating profits to \$88 million.

OFC wins time to fight order

THE High Court yesterday adjourned a bid by the Department of Trade and Industry to wind up the troubled Ostreich Farming Corporation (OFC), which raised millions of pounds from private investors.

The adjournment means a delay of at least one month, raising the question of how the upkeep of more than 3,000 birds held in Belgium will be funded. The money is expected to run out in the next few days.

Michael Pugh, the Official Receiver who is acting as provisional liquidator, will have to apply to the courts for direction. It is likely that he will have to dip into funds to pay for their upkeep.

The Nottingham company, which is also the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation, is contesting the DTI's winding up order.

The High Court Registrar adjourned the case to a judge in the Chancery Division and gave OFC 21 days to file evidence. The DTI will then have 14 days to reply. The action should be heard before August.

Miss Raquel Agnello, for OFC, said the company needed time to consider a report to be filed by Mr Pugh.

The DTI petition alleges that investors' money was siphoned off through disadvantageous contracts with other companies and that the company is partly under the control of a person alleged not fit to be a director of a company.



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Guardian

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BETTER INSURANCE FOR THE WORLDLY WISE

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Share prices feel effects of worries in New York

SHARE prices on the London stock market held above the 3,700 level, but it was a close run thing.

A further delay in settling the US Budget and worries that the Fed may need to raise interest rates in order to tighten monetary policy sent the Dow tumbling almost 80 points during the first hour of trading on Wall Street. It also helped to wipe out an early rise in London where the FT-SE 100 index finished 15.7 down at its low point of 3,707.3.

Turnover was again thin with 713 million shares traded. There was little evidence of selling, but with market-makers holding stock on their books, further falls are on the cards in the short-term. Hopes of a further cut in base rates to coincide with the monthly meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, proved wide of the mark.

There was still plenty of speculative activity to maintain interest. **Lucas Industries** dropped 6.5p to 227p in heavy trading after the company was prompted by the Takeover Panel to deny it was in bid talks with Vario Corporation. But speculators still hope the talks will be enough to flush out another bidder.

Pearson finished rose 14p to 702p on persistent murmuring about a bid. **Smith & Nephew** stood out with an uncharacteristic rise of 6.5p to 201p amid suggestions that Eli Lilly, the US healthcare group, had been taking a close look. Only last week S&N excited the market with news of a joint venture to develop skin for grafting. Brokers say it could be a big earner for the group.

J Sainsbury bounced back from its first profits setback in 22 years with a rise of 15p to 372p, after briefly touching 355p. It seems the decline at the pre-tax level from £309 million to £172 million was offset by encouraging remarks about dividend policy and the news that the group wants approval to buy-back its own shares.

Brokers were also encouraged by Sainsbury's plan to introduce a loyalty card in an attempt to repeat the success of a similar scheme introduced by its arch-rival **Tesco**. Sainsbury is also pulling out the stops to integrate its recently acquired **Texas** DIY chain with **Homebase**. Texas made losses of £10.4 million.



Sir Neil Shaw, right, and Larry Pillard saw Tate & Lyle ease

Tesco, which now has the biggest market share, finished 5p better at 727p. Argill rose 8.2p to 336p as Kleinwort Benson, the broker, upgraded its recommendation from a hold to a buy.

Full-year figures from **Whitebread** were broadly in line with expectations showing pre-tax profits up from £255 million to £283 million.

Vodafone, the mobile telephone operator, fell 8p to 247p in late trading on turnover of almost eight million shares. Talk that UBS had come out with a "sell" recommendation proved to be wide of the mark after the broker yesterday emerged as lead manager to a £250 million Eurobond issued by Vodafone.

Peter Jarvis, chairman, said the group was now on the lookout for suitable acquisitions to help underpin profits with capital expenditure set to top £400 million. Even so, the shares ended 8p easier at 738p.

A warning from **Tate & Lyle** that profits for the full year would fall short of the £311 million indicated at the time of January's profits warning left

the group, chaired by Sir Neil Shaw, nursing a fall of 14p to 462p. Pre-tax profits at the halfway stage were up from £153 million to £168.2 million. Brokers have begun downgrading their estimates for the full year. Credit Lyonnais Laing has sliced £2 million from its previous figure of £308.2 million.

Cadbury Schweppes fell 13.5p to 492.5p after some bland comments about current trading. **Dominic Cadbury**, chairman, told shareholders that underlying trading had been satisfactory. The company was still considering the possibility of a US offering of its shares following their recent listing in the form of American Depository Receipts.

CRH, the Irish building products group, firmed 2p to 596p after promising shareholders another year of progress and further acquisitions.

Royal Bank of Scotland managed to come up with the goods despite the expected downturn at its Direct Line telephone insurance subsidiary. A drop in bad debt provisions enabled group profits to grow from £270 million to £310 million. The shares responded with a rise of 5p to 527p.

Gus Carter, the Sunderland bookmaker, jumped 1p to 93p matching terms of a proposed agreed bid from Stanley Leisure, 1p easier at 474p. The offer values Gus Carter at £14.7 million and is on the basis of 20 new Stanley shares for every 102 Carter.

There were no frills attached to first time trading on the Alternative Investment Market in shares of **La Senza**. Placed at 150p, shares in the hosiery retailer which has 22 shops, opened at 150p before settling at 150p where the company has a £50 million price tag. It has raised £10 million from the flotation and wants to use the proceeds to open a further 152 outlets.

First-time trading in **Reflex** got off to a positive start on AIM with the shares opening at 46p compared with the 40p they were originally placed at by Peel Hunt, the broker. They later settled at 48p, a premium of 8p, valuing the group, which produces luminous paint for use with reflective clothing, at just over £3 million.

GILT-EDGED: London responded warmly to a resilient performance by US Treasury bonds with gains extending to more than 1/2% at the longer end. After the disappointing response to the three year auction on Tuesday, brokers were looking for a better outcome to last night's ten-year auction.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt climbed 17 1/2c to close at 105 1/4% as a turnover grew to 36,000 contracts. In long Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished 1 1/2% better at 159 1/2%, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose 1/4c to 101 1/4%.

NEW YORK: Shares remained lower at midday as higher bond yields rattled equity markets for the fifth consecutive day. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 50.36 points at 5,364.59.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5364.59 (-56.36)
S&P Composite	631.32 (-6.94)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21728.60 (+233.32)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10617.32 (-84.85)
Amsterdam:	
Euro Index	551.56 (+0.08)
Sydney:	
ASX 200	2298.5 (-9.38)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2472.64 (-4.98)
Singapore:	
Strait	2371.83 (-24.33)
Brussels:	
General	4030.23 (-36.58)
Paris:	
CAC-40	Closed
Zurich:	
SEA Gen	773.40 (-7.48)

London:	
FT 100	2772.0 (-24.4)
FTSE 100	2772.0 (-24.4)
FTSE 100	2772.0 (-24.4)
FTSE 100	2772.0 (-24.4)
FTSE 100	2772.0 (-24.4)
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RECENT ISSUES	
AIM Distribution	94
Active Imaging	120
Bluebird Toys	130
Calcomat BS IT	925
Calcomat Unit	225
Cap for Co's VCT (100)	95
Cardcast (85)	5
FRK	318
Hayes Nichols (270)	315
La Senza	150
MSE International	240
Millam & Cop (278)	319
Perp Inc & Gth Wts	19
Phytopharm (175)	178
Reflex	46
Singer & Fred AIM Wts	11
Singer & Fred AIM	98
Sira Bus Srv Wts	14
Sira Business Svs	4
Stemor	93
Templeton CBE Euro	26
Templeton Phil	185
Waterfall (45)	52

NIGHTS ISSUES	
Benson Group n/p (40)	4
Cap Reg 675% ULS n/p 14	1
Ind Control n/p (90)	24
King D'Arcy n/p	1
On Demand n/p (180)	5
Queensbridge n/p (180)	2
Tottenham Hot n/p	90

MAJOR CHANGES	
JD Wetherspoon	855p (+80p)
A Young	613p (+20p)
Avon Rubber	628p (+20p)
J Sainsbury	372p (+15p)
Chiroscience	520p (+20p)
Dorling Kind	541p (+12p)

FALLS:	
H Ramdens	383p (-54p)
London Clubs	508p (-28p)
Bluebird Toys	221p (-11p)
Tespec	750p (-30p)
Micro Focus	387p (-37p)
Corbis	361p (-15p)
Dions G	482p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

U-turn in the aisles

DAVID SAINSBURY yesterday conducted one of the greatest U-turns in recent corporate history. Having ridiculed Tesco's launch of a loyalty card last year, he has now admitted it's not such a daft idea after all. As a result Sainsbury will be launching its own "electronic green shield stamp" scheme shortly.

The supermarket group realises that being one of the last into the market means it has to do more than just pad along in the footsteps of its predecessors. But what twists and novelties the Sainsbury card will have is being kept closely under wraps by management.

The group's tardiness in responding to the launch of Tesco's Clubcard will not be repeated when it comes to credit cards, even given the benefits of extra, and strong, legs of Homebase and Shaws, the US food retailer, recovery will not be short-term.

The long-awaited announcement of the impending loyalty card launch should help lift the group's flagging sales and restore its market share. According to AGB figures for the four weeks to mid April, Sainsbury's share was 20.3 per cent, down from 21.9 per cent last time, while Tesco's climbed from 21.9 per cent to 22.6 per cent.

Sainsbury claims that the slide has been stopped as a result of improved pricing and bolstering customer service levels. However, as Mr Sainsbury admits, there is plenty more still to be done. Half the battle has been won in recognising action is needed, the outcome depends on how aggressive Sainsbury's new management team are prepared to be. But more fundamental reasons for the shares to move upwards.

Royal Bank

NOT long ago Direct Line was the Royal Bank of Scotland's favourite subsidiary. Direct Line could do no wrong and turned in sparkling profits while its rivals struggled to maintain market share.

What a difference six months makes. Direct Line yesterday unveiled profits down £40 million, which its chairman Peter Wood blamed on bad weather and fierce competition in the motor market.

By contrast, a massive overhaul of the bank's branches, which had appeared to be a rather cosmetic exercise, seems to be paying off. Costs have been reduced and the bank is expanding its range of personal financial services to head off competition from ambitious building societies.

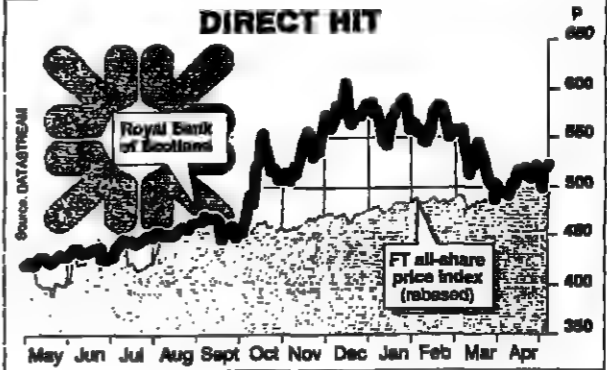
It is a bit rich of Direct Line

to complain about competition, since it grew to become the largest private motor insurer in the UK through undercutting rivals. Scores of small companies followed its example. Consolidation looks inevitable, with smaller players retiring hurt or being taken over.

RBS shares have been

rising on speculation that the

bank might be a takeover target for the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation again. However, with insurance premiums likely to rise slightly this year, and tight control on banking and insurance costs, there are now more fundamental reasons for the shares to move upwards.



Tate & Lyle

COSSETED by the Common Agricultural Programme, it is sometimes easy for European consumers to forget about the volatility in world food prices. Sir Neil Shaw, chairman of Tate & Lyle, was keen to remind the City of a real reality yesterday as his sugar and sweetener group owned up to some disappointing results.

A near-doubling in the price of corn has dealt a harsh blow to Staley, the US corn syrup business that has become the most important contributor to Tate & Lyle's profits.

Staley's longer term prospects remain strong, but Tate & Lyle reckons it will be 18 months or so before equilibrium returns to the corn market. Unfortunately, that will place a check on the growth in dividends. The heavy investment the group has made in developing markets in Eastern Europe and the Far East is starting to

yield significant profits, but

this contribution is still too small to make up the shortfall from Staley. The 6 per cent rise in the interim payment indicates the short-term potential. Tate & Lyle remains a good long-term bet. But at 462p, down 14p yesterday, the shares offer little immediate excitement.

Zeneca

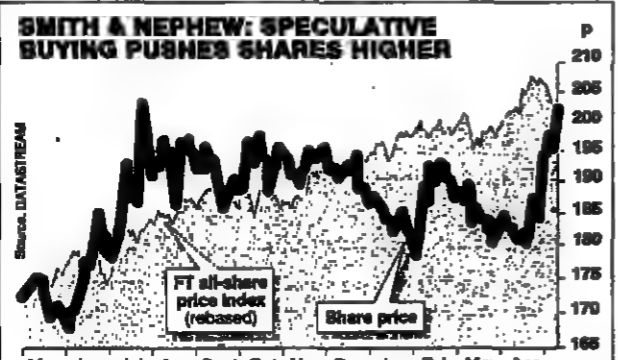
ZENECA continues to clean up its act and has just unloaded its loss-making textile dye business. But the pharmaceutical group shows little sign of taking bolder steps such as merging with a rival company or making a strategic acquisition. The company has argued that it is doing just fine on its own, thank you very much, and points to its lofty share price as evidence.

Zeneca's price-earnings ratio of 22 is at the top end of the scale, although it includes some takeover speculation. Glaxo Wellcome's is a mere 15 and SmithKline

Beecham's is 18. Nonetheless,

Zeneca might want to reconsider its strategy of guarding its independence. True, it has no glaring weakness but finding the right partner could enhance shareholder value by broadening its product portfolio, strengthening its research and development budget and allowing it to trim overhead costs. Merging through a share swap that creates no debt or goodwill is the way to go. The combined market value of Pharmacia and Upjohn soared when they merged using the same formula. The same thing happened to Ciba and Sandoz when they came together.

Zeneca's main obstacle, of course, is its own success. Any company with a much lower price-earnings ratio would be loathe to merge with Zeneca for fear of being dominated by it. As long as Zeneca's shares remain as high as they are, there's a good chance that the company will continue as it is.



COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCA

May	107-108	109-110
Jul	110-111	111-112
Sep	112-113	113-114
Nov	114-115	115-116
Dec	116-117	117-118
May	120-121	121-122
Jul	122-123	123-124
Sep	124-125	125-126
Nov	126-127	127-128
Dec	128-129	129-130

Volume: 200

ROBUSTA COFFEE (S)

May	154-155	156-157
Jul	158-159	160-161
Sep	162-163	164-165
Nov	166-167	168-169
Dec	170-171	172-173
May	174-175	176-177
Jul	178-179	180-181
Sep	182-183	184-185
Nov	186-187	188-189
Dec	190-191	192-193

Volume: 300

WHITE SUGAR FOB

May	320-321	322-323
Jul	324-325	326-327
Sep	328-329	330-331
Nov	334-335	336-337
Dec	338-339	340-341
May	344-345	346-347
Jul	348-349	350-351
Sep	354-355	356-357
Nov	360-361	362-363
Dec	364-365	366-367

Volume: 300

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average (market prices in representative markets on May 7)

	May 7	May 8	May 9
Cattle	104.3	107.6	107.6
Sheep	67.1	67.1	67.1
Goats	10.9	10.7	10.7
Pigs	2.24	2.24	2.24
Calves	1.10	1.10	1.10
Stags	1.10	1.10	1.10
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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Burnside left on hold

DAVID BURNSIDE, the hard-nosed PR who left British Airways with a £500,000 pay-off after being embroiled in the "dirty tricks" campaign against Virgin Atlantic, is threatening to take British Telecom to court. The 47-year-old is claiming "substantial" compensation from BT, which left him in an order more than two months ago, before moving to his new offices overlooking the Thames. "I intend to sue them for loss of business," says Burnside, whose lawyer delivered an ultimatum to BT on the same day as his PR clients Flying Flowers announced acquisitions totalling £5.2 million.

Company referee

ROBERT KILROY-SILK, the morning television presenter, is offering his skills as a referee to companies fraught with internal fighting. Every housewife's favourite face has joined forces with Andrew Chance, the corporate entertainer, to promote Kilroy-Silk as the ultimate arbitrator. Various companies, including British Gas and British Rail, have expressed an interest in rounding-up shareholders and representatives from across the board, to clear the air once and for all, in Kilroy-Silk's BBC studios. Events hosted by Kilroy-Chance will not, however, be televised.

Pastures new

THE Australian Government, the owner of about 60 properties in central London, is opting for maintenance-free modern houses over period buildings in a bid to cut its budget. After recently snapping-up two modern flats in Docklands, the Australian Government has just purchased the remaining property on the new Chiswick Grange development in Highgate for £12.5 million. The six bedroom house will be the home of the newly appointed Australian Deputy High Commissioner, whose predecessor was kept in old-style accommodation in Belgravia.



Wedding recipe

THE chief executive of Chrysalis Radio, Richard Huntingford, is marrying the cook who used to run his works canteen on Bramley Road, Huntingford and his bride, 40-year-old Nicky Baker, who have both been married before, will rally guests to St Mary's, Barnes, in eight huge heart 106.2 patrol vehicles, for their blessing this Friday.

Royal confusion

ASKED about some of the recent City speculation about mergers, Lord Younger, former Defence Secretary and chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, was clearly none too impressed with the accuracy of information arriving from the Square Mile. The Royal Bank, he said, had been puzzled by gyrations in its share price last week, only to find that brains in the City had confused the Royal Bank of Scotland with Royal Insurance, as word spread of the insurance group's proposed merger with Sun Alliance.

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW ANATOLE KALETSKY



When all currencies are weak, what about gold?

Investors who are unsure which way to turn are looking at precious metal

Today, there is no such thing as a "hard currency". As I found on a recent trip to Switzerland, the question for conservative investors is no longer which country will have a strong currency; it is which currency will be least weak. And when none seems to fit the bill, attention turns to the oldest refuge from economic uncertainty: gold.

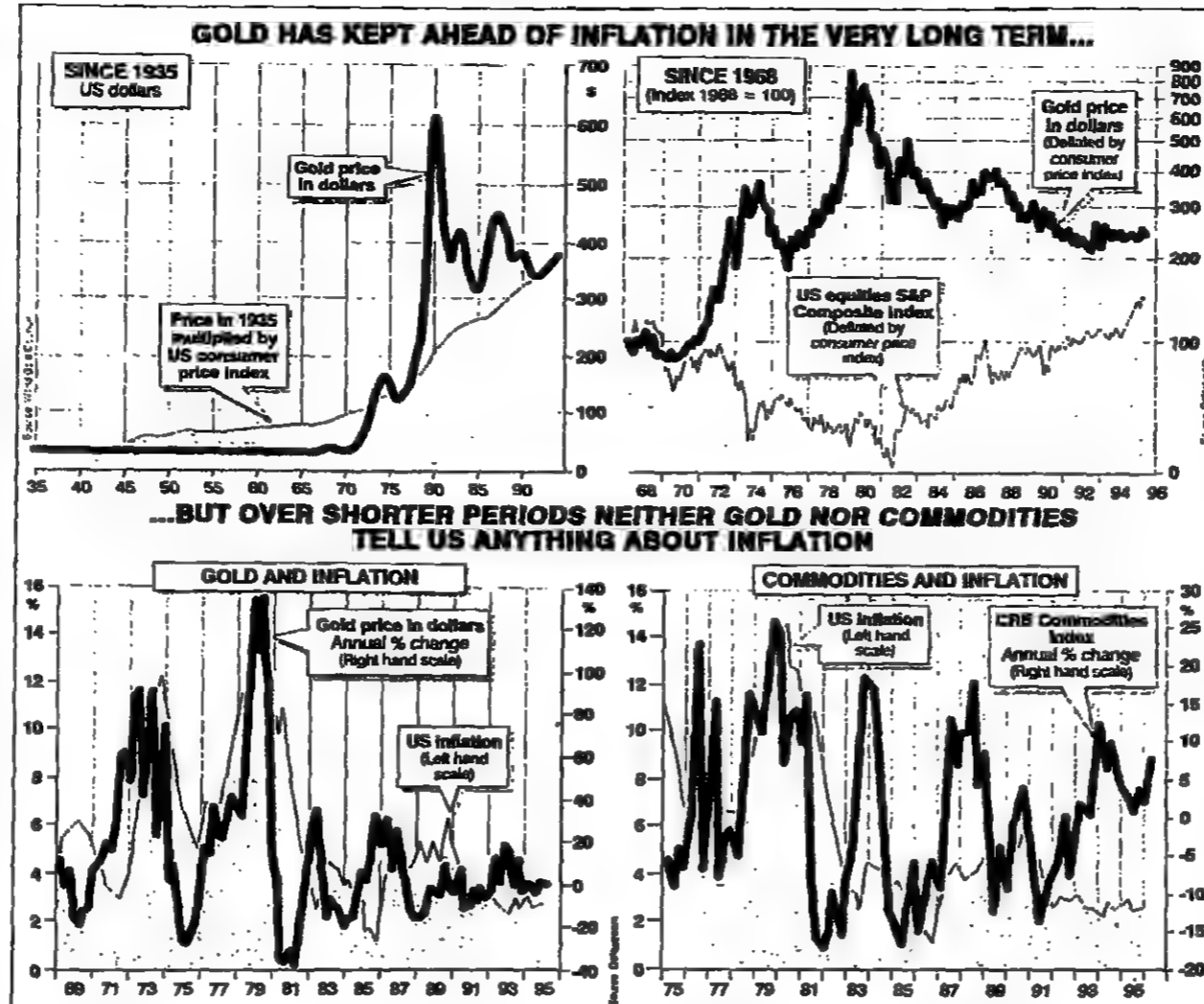
With the recent swing of German opinion in favour of European monetary union and the palpable ferment among the Swiss against their overvalued franc, every significant country in the world has now turned against a "strong" currency. Indeed, most governments have embraced the apparently perverse doctrine that I have been preaching in these columns for years: in a non-inflationary world, a hard currency is not a virtuous symbol but a tumour; a weak currency is a source of economic power.

Today, the hard-currency policies traditional in countries like Germany are doomed to failure. Since the mid-1960s, Germany has periodically revalued the mark but managed to stay competitive by achieving lower inflation than its trading partners, particularly those in the rest of Europe which relied heavily on trade with Germany and therefore suffered an inflationary shock every time the mark went up. But this policy of "competitive deflation" no longer works in a world where every country's inflation is close to zero.

The argument is fully explained by Bernard Connolly, the European Commission official who used to oversee the European Monetary System, in a cogent analysis of the Bundesbank's new Euro-friendly monetary framework just published by Lombard Street Research. I heard it more colourfully from another senior European official: "Germany used to have a virtuous circle because the others had a vicious circle; but when the others give up vice, virtue doesn't pay."

The fashion for soft currencies was first openly embraced in America and Japan, but now it has spread to Europe. (Although the French insist on a franc fort they make it quite clear that the "strength" in question is only against the mark — they cheer whenever the franc falls against the dollar, yen, lira, peseta or pound.) It has also caught on around the world.

On Tuesday, I noticed the following gem on Reuters: "Economists welcome Mexican peso weakness: Weakness in the Mexican peso during the past week could signal the end of its recent bull run and the end of a fresh headache for



government officials who worried that the currency was getting too strong." So even Mexico, just 18 months after its brutal devaluation, has learned to love a weak currency. Of course, it is logically impossible for every currency to fall at the same time. But ironically the only currency that is probably on a long-term upward is the one investors are least willing to believe in: the US dollar.

The dilemma was perfectly illustrated in the issue of the Lombard Street International Review which published the Connolly paper. After I summarised this paper, titled *The making of a D-Mark crisis*, the review's editor, Brian Reading, turned to his own analysis on "the makings of a dollar crisis". His conclusion was "the D-mark's problems are worse than the dollar's", while the yen "may soon become weak in its own right".

In a world like this, it is hardly surprising that conservative investors are at a loss over where to put their money. It is also unsurprising that gold and commodities have started to attract attention in the financial world — in spite of the low levels of inflation and still-depressed industrial conditions around the world.

Could the increasing laxity of global monetary conditions, accompanied by the deliberate debasement of the key currency in Europe, lead to another upsurge in gold prices and perhaps presage the next great inflation? This kind of question has been trotted out regularly since gold peaked at \$700 an ounce, by ever-hopeful gold investors the world over. The last such flurry was in January this year when the price poked its head above \$405 for

the first time since 1990. At the time, I suggested that the goldbugs' excitement was premature. Now, for the first time in 15 years, I am starting to believe that their time may finally be at hand — largely because there seems to be no truly secure alternative among the fiat currencies of the world.

If gold does start to rise significantly in the months ahead, the consequences could be quite disruptive for economic and financial conditions the world over. Rightly or wrongly, the gold price is seen by many investors and central bankers as an indicator of inflationary pressures. This may be irrational and empirically unjustified (as the charts show, there has been no correlation between gold and inflation since 1980) — but it is a fact of financial psychology.

A rising gold price would further unsettle bond markets and could make central bankers err on the side of higher interest rates. With stock markets at record highs, an upsurge in gold could also trigger the long-ferred market correction and hit consumer confidence, since an inverse relationship between gold and equity prices does seem to exist (see the top right chart).

To make matters worse, an increase in gold prices would encourage speculation in other commodities, and oil, which is already growing. Several agricultural commodities have recently hit record highs, while rising oil prices in America have been met with legislation to cut petrol taxes, in direct contrast to the conservation measures which helped to convert the energy crises of the 1970s into the present glut.

And while much of the recent jump in the commodity indices could be explained by cold weather and poor harvests, there have also been stirrings in lead, copper and other industrial commodities.

These events are making a deep impression on careful observers of financial and economic conditions. In the past few weeks, several astute commentators from around the world have drawn attention to commodity prices and potential inflation. David Fuller, of Chart Analysis: "Upward pressure on commodity prices won't go away. When intelligent and sophisticated people deny a fact that is as plain as the nose on their face, they do so for an important reason — self-interest. Commodity price inflation threatens to spoil the party like an unwelcome guest." The *Bank Credit Analyst* from Montreal: "Bond investors should be concerned by the growing popularity of the view that inflation is not only unlikely, but perhaps also impossible." Finally, *Grant's Interest Rate Observer* from New York: "Watch Dr Copper, the only metal with a PhD in economics".

In sum, gold and commodities are now worth watching. But before getting carried away by the dangers of commodity inflation, several facts must be borne in mind. There has been almost no correlation between either gold or commodity prices and inflation.

In the very long run, gold has been a good hedge against inflation, but it has been a terrible investment since 1979. Yet, even after halving since its peak, gold today is no bargain by historic standards. While many other commodities and metals have recently been near

record lows in relation to consumer prices, gold is still twice as expensive in real terms as it was in the 1960s and considerably dearer than in the 1930s. The sort of phenomenal rise it enjoyed in the 1970s, after the breakdown of Bretton Woods seems extremely unlikely.

My personal view, for what it is worth, is that economic growth will accelerate around the world and inflation will start creeping up. Inflation will not rise to anything like the peaks of the past two decades, but it will rise.

Meanwhile, there could be big swings in commodities, oil and perhaps even precious metals. Investors and central bankers must be alert to these but not overreact. The key point to remember is that rising labour costs and inadequate productivity growth are the only real sources of inflation. As always in economic policy, the greatest thing to fear is fear itself. But there is nothing like gold for provoking irrational fear as well as irrational rapture.

In sum, gold and commodities are now worth watching. But before getting carried away by the dangers of commodity inflation, several facts must be borne in mind. There has been almost no correlation between either gold or commodity prices and inflation.

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The world of temping is here to stay

As two staff providers plan to merge
Ross Tieman assesses agency growth

Temporary work just isn't what it used to be. Corporate downsizing, out-sourcing and statutory rights for full-time employees have seen to that. What began as a small-town, small-business upspring of employment agents, providing temp secretaries and manual labourers to cope with seasonal shortages is becoming a global industry fulfilling the needs of blue-chip companies for highly skilled project staff. That, at least, is what the providers would have us believe.

The planned merger between Adia, the Swiss group that owns the Alfred Marks agency in Britain, and Ecco, its larger French counterpart, unveiled yesterday, reveals just how far the business has come. Together, they will enjoy annual revenues of Fr32 billion (£4.1 billion), comfortably ahead, on a like-for-like basis, of Manpower, the American market leader.

The emergence of temporary staff agencies as big, global businesses is a post-war phenomenon. Manpower was established in 1948 to profit from the difficulties of American companies in a tight post-war labour market. Its British and French subsidiary were set up eight years later.

Like Adia, established in Switzerland in 1957, and the French Ecco, founded by Philippe Floriet-Destezet in 1964, Manpower built its early success in an era of full employment. Companies needed temporary secretaries, labourers and warehouse staff to bridge the gaps left by holidays and sickness, or to help them to cope with short-term production surges.

But as the economic stability of the 1960s gave way to the more unpredictable 1970s and 1980s, the seasonal and cyclical nature of the market proved a trial, as well as an opportunity, for all the players.

It was during these years that the foundations were laid for a transformation. Gradually, they began to move up-market, recruiting staff with specialist skills in accountancy, engineering and information technology.

The restructuring undertaken by both manufacturing and service companies in the US and Europe during

the late 1980s and 1990s has widened the market for temporary staff. Competition has forced companies to concentrate on their core competences and trim support staff. Extended entitlements to paid holidays, maternity leave and other benefits have forced up non-wage costs.

In Britain, and elsewhere, companies meet increases in their workload by hiring temporary staff until they are sure the need for the post will be sustained. At the same time, says Lillian Bennett, chairman of Manpower in Britain, many companies will hire temporary employees to assist with short-term projects, such as the installation of a new computer system.

"We have moved up the skill ladder constantly over the last 20 or 30 years," she says. Hiring out better-paid employees increases the return to the agencies, and reduces the cyclical nature of their business.

Scale of operations, and investment in computers and training have become important. To supply an individual with the right skills requires a big, well-organised database of talent.

But that is only part of the temporary staff companies' mutation. Increasingly, they are taking on a managerial role, supplying services to companies eager to buy in skills outside their areas of core competence. Manpower now has contracts to operate complaints and inquiry telephone services for several clients.

There can be no doubt that deregulation of employment markets helps the agencies to thrive. Three years ago, Spain lifted restrictions on use of temporary staff. Since then, Ecco's Spanish business has grown three-fold.

Figures from Adia and Ecco show that between 1989 and 1994, the proportion of the UK workforce in temporary employment rose from less than 1 per cent to 1.6 per cent, level with France and only a whisker behind the US. In Germany and Japan, still tightly regulated, the proportions are only 0.6 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively. Consolidation in the industry may be gathering pace, but the market still appears to have ample room for growth.

"We have moved up skill ladder constantly"

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For the life you don't yet know



Questionable NatWest redundancies a costly burden on the community

From Mr Mark Dunn
Sir, The news that NatWest plans to make 3,000 of its staff redundant, as a part of a plan to restructure its business, does not come altogether as a surprise, because we have become used to large businesses making similar moves, in their desire to stay ahead of their competitors, or, more often, in an attempt to stop the accumulation of losses.

But in this age when the disciplines of the market are held to be supreme, I wonder whether this particular

planned course of action does not amount to the breaking of a social contract with the rest of the community.

I am neither an employee nor a shareholder in this large bank, but I am a taxpayer and I do contribute to the National Insurance scheme. Equally, I pay local government taxes on my property.

It seems to me to be arguable that a considerable and costly burden is being handed, by this large asset-rich, profitable and proprietorial business, to the rest of the

community, in circumstances where there is no real need for it itself to meet all the costs of the social consequences of its action.

Why should my taxes and contributions be used to further the strategic planning of a financial institution, which is solvent and has growth plans.

Once, no self-respecting and solvent British financial institution would have left any unwanted employee as a call on the community, and had it done so, the financial and investment institutions would

have soon made it understand the error of its ways. The fact that it is now possible for your newspaper to report the detail of NatWest's intentions without so much as a "raised eyebrow" is frightening evidence of a general lack of integrity and a sense of duty among people who should know better.

Yours faithfully
MARK DUNN,
Wildham,
Stoughton,
Chichester,
West Sussex.

Matter of confidence

From J. N. Maney
Sir, In his letter of May 3, M. J. Hart says that he has complete confidence in the chairman of Eurotunnel, and that his company, Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust, is one of the few UK institutional investors in Eurotunnel. As a small shareholder in F&C, should I have complete confidence in their investment?

Yours faithfully,
J. N. MANEY,
Four Windes, Warboys Road,
Bury, Ramsey, Huntingdon.

Finger of blame for stagnation in exports

From Mrs A. C. H. Jenkins
Sir, Anatole Kaletsky argues (Economic View, May 2) that the Bank of England is to blame for the stagnation of British exports since the end of 1994. This very partial view takes no account of a 15 per cent rise in the price of manufactured exports between the last quarter of 1992 and the end of 1994, which eroded almost all the gains in competitiveness accruing from sterling's depreciation post black/white Wednesday.

It is Britain's industrialists

whom Mr Kaletsky should be fingering for 15 per cent price rises over a period when the cost of their inputs grew less than 10 per cent. No doubt these industrialists will soon squeal that sterling is overvalued, indifferent to what depreciation means for British consumers who like to spend a portion of their earnings on foreign goods and holidays.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELINA JENKINS,
71 route de Bourdigney,
1242 Sateign, Switzerland.

Here's to Dubai

From Mr Ken George
Sir, Let me assure the lucky winners from BACUP's City quiz (City Diary, May 1) that their two nights in Dubai should be anything but dry.

Yours faithfully,
KEN GEORGE,
PO Box 26379,
Dubai.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112

Court rules council does not have to repay loan

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT hopes that private sector money will fund public sector capital projects received a body blow from the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Its landmark ruling will damage the credit rating of local authorities and make City financiers doubly cautious about lending them money in future.

In a unanimous ruling, the judges agreed that Allerdale District Council in Cumbria would not have to repay £6 million it had borrowed from Cr dit Suisse because the merchant bank had chosen to ignore the fact that the council

was exceeding its powers in raising that amount of money.

The statutory limit on the council's borrowing in 1985-6 when it took out the loan to build a leisure centre and timeshare complex in Keswick was £3,682,000. To try to get round this, it formed a wholly owned subsidiary — the Allerdale Development Company — which borrowed the money.

The project quickly collapsed with mounting debts and the council reneged on the debt, claiming its loan guarantee was a nullity because it had exceeded its powers in raising that much money.

Lord Justice Gibson said it was an unattractive feature of the case that the council was asserting that it had acted illegally in order to resist the bank's claim for its money. Allerdale relied on its own breach of duty to the public to renege on its private law obligations, he said.

Nevertheless, the bank had entered into the contract well aware of the essential nature of the scheme and it was therefore not entitled to a penny of its money back.

The bank, which claimed that to allow the council to get away scot-free because it had exceeded its own powers flew in the face of common sense, was granted leave to appeal to the Lords.

Mr Christopher Clarke, QC, for the bank said that the case raised issues of general public importance and a number of other cases were waiting on the judgment.

A spokesman for the Association of District Councils said: "This will add to the uncertainty about the Private Finance Initiative at a time when the Government is encouraging us to use it."

He added: "There is bound to be a ripple effect because it affects all areas where there are private investors and they will now be querying a local authority's ability to offer guarantees."

Chief goes as Sidlaw falls to loss

By MARTIN BARKOW

DIGBY MORROW has left as chief executive of Sidlaw with immediate effect after the announcement by the packaging and oil services company of a first-half loss and a cut in its interim payout.

The search is on for a successor from outside the company for Mr Morrow, who played a key role in reshaping Sidlaw in the early 1990s. Michael Walker, chairman, will act as chief executive temporarily.

In the half year to March 31, Sidlaw lost £1.4 million before tax, against profits of £4.1 million in the previous first half. The interim dividend falls to 1p, from 4.5p.

Mr Walker said Mr Morrow was leaving "against a background of unsatisfactory results".

Packaging lost £1.2 million (profits of £2.5 million previously). Profits from oil services fell to £1.9 million (£3.3 million).



Jim Flavin with one of the products that contributed to a 14 per cent rise in pre-tax profits

Healthcare boosts DCC

By RACHEL BRIDGE

STRONG demand for snack and health foods helped DCC, the Irish industrial holdings group, to push up its pre-tax profits 14 per cent to Ir£28.9 million in the year to March 31.

Jim Flavin, chief executive, said that, while children are eating more savoury snacks, their parents are choosing healthier options such as Kelkin, its multivitamin drink. This has helped to lift food operating profits almost 25 per cent to Ir£8.2 million.

Profits were also helped by a first-time contribution from DCC's recent UK acquisition, Group of Days Medical Aids, which makes rehabilitation products.

Total healthcare operating profits rose 45 per cent to Ir£3.3 million. In computer services, profits rose 3 per cent to Ir£7.8 million.

Mr Flavin yesterday pledged to complete the group's five-year transition from passive venture capitalist to actively managed group with a gradual buyout of the group's minority holdings in its subsidiaries, beginning with its food interests in the Kelkin and Robert Roberts brands. During the year DCC acquired both the outstanding 40 per cent interest in Flogas, its gas subsidiary, and the outstanding 25 per cent interest in Emo Oil.

The full-year dividend rises from Ir£0.16p a share to Ir£0.90p with a final of Ir£4.10p.

Zeneca sells textiles colours business

By ERIC REGULY

ZENECA, the pharmaceuticals and chemicals group, yesterday sold its loss-making textiles colours business to BASF of Germany for up to £138 million in cash. The disposal completes the restructuring of its specialty chemicals division.

The textiles colours business will be integrated with BASF's textiles and leather dyes operations, making it the third largest business of its kind in the world. In 1995, the BASF dyes operations had sales of DM850 million and production sites around the world, including China, and two joint ventures in China and Japan.

The deal will see Zeneca transfer 730 employees and net assets of £65 million, including production sites at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, and in Brazil and the US to BASF. Zeneca's manufacturing sites at Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, and Grangemouth, Scotland, will remain with the company to service contracts for the production of textile dyes for BASF.

The final sales price is to be set once the inventory levels are determined. In addition, Zeneca is to retain net working capital of £11.9 million, which will be collected by BASF on Zeneca's behalf.

A Zeneca spokesman said that the colours business suffered a small loss on sales of £202 million in 1995, but would provide no other details. No turnaround was in sight, he said, because of increasingly strong competition from low-cost manufacturers in the Far East.

The disposal comes shortly after the sale of Zeneca's specialty inks business to Sun Chemical Corp of America for \$62 million. Zeneca has no immediate plans to sell any other businesses in its specialty chemicals division.

After the sale of the textiles colours business, the specialty chemicals division will be left with annual turnover of about £700 million and 5,500 employees. Its activities will include the production of industrial colours such as the ink used in photocopiers, resins and organic disinfectants known as biocides.

Times, page 26

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Gus Carter agrees Stanley Leisure bid

STANLEY LEISURE, the betting shops and casinos group, is making an agreed £14.7 million bid for Gus Carter, its smaller North East rival. Mike Kershaw, Stanley's chief executive, said that Gus Carter's 74 shops were in an area where Stanley Racing was under-represented, with only eight branches. The move will give Stanley Racing about 530 outlets, consolidating its position behind Coral, William Hill and Ladbrokes.

Stanley tried to buy Gus Carter two years ago, but the Trewin family, who still own 57.2 per cent of the shares, thought they could get a better price by going to the stock market. Mr Kershaw said that Stanley's offer, worth 93p a share, was very similar to its original offer. He said: "The timing [of Gus Carter's float] was unfortunate. They have had a difficult first year on the market." Stanley is offering 20 new shares for every 102 Gus Carter shares. Gus Carter shareholders can also opt to take 93p a share in cash.

Kodak snaps at Fuji

EASTMAN KODAK's chief executive yesterday said he has "a better chance of competing in the Olympics" than of selling Kodak film in Japan. At Kodak's annual shareholders' meeting, George Fisher said the settlement of its trade dispute with rival Fuji Photofilm was far from imminent. It is less than two months before the US Government's deadline to impose trade sanctions against Japan. Kodak claims anti-competitive practices have given Fuji a monopoly in Japan.

Beattie's profits slip

PROFITS at James Beattie, the department stores group, fell to £5.9 million before tax, from £6.3 million, in the year to January 31. At the operating level, profits were unchanged at £5.1 million. Earnings edged higher to 9.1p a share, from 8.9p. A final dividend of 5.05p a share lifts the total to 6.65p from 6.4p. Sales rose 6.2 per cent to £90.3 million last year, but were almost 10 per cent higher in the first quarter of the current year, Sir Eric Pountain, the chairman, said.

Flying Flowers in deals

FLYING FLOWERS, the distributor of fresh flowers and bedding plants, is making three acquisitions worth a total of £5.26 million. It is buying Blooms of Bressingham, a grower of plants and shrubs distributed through garden centres and by mail order; Clarke & Spears, a distributor of houseplants; and Benham Collectors Club, a supplier of first day stamp and coin covers. The deals will be funded via a £5.26 million placing and open offer of one new share for every six held at 157p each.

Avon Rubber ahead

AVON RUBBER, the automotive components and technical products company, lifted pre-tax profits to £10.2 million in the half year to March 30, from £7.5 million in the previous first half, on turnover of £172.2 million, up from £150 million. Earnings per share were 24p, up from 16.6p. The interim dividend, due on July 26, rises to 5.75p, from 5.35p. The shares gained 25p, to 623p. Avon said that although its markets were still competitive, it remained confident about prospects.

Norcros expanding

NORCROS is expanding its interests in adhesives with a number of acquisitions from BTR for a total of £27.3 million. It is buying Dunlop Adhesives, a BTR subsidiary, and acquiring BTR's interests in three joint ventures with Norcros, namely Building Adhesives, Australian Building Adhesives, and TAL. Dunlop Adhesives, based in Birmingham, makes ceramic, industrial and specialist adhesives. The joint venture companies operate in the UK, Australia and South Africa.

ACCOUNTANCY

Investing in people pays off

Andrew Colquhoun on a scheme to make the most of human assets

Increasingly, in modern post-industrial economies, the principal assets of organisations are human, not plant. For those organisations to succeed, they must invest in their people on a planned and systematic basis.

That thinking is as relevant to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales as it is to any other employer. That is why the institute worked for, and has just won, the Investors in People (IIP) Award. In particular, we see the IIP scheme as offering potential for improving the institute's service to members.

Developed by business leaders on the National Training Task Force, which advised the then Secretary of State for Employment on training and enterprise issues, the IIP scheme is administered by the Training and Enterprise Councils and is endorsed by the TUC and the CBI.

The IIP National Standard requires organisations aspiring to qualify to make a public commitment to the development of all employees in order to achieve business aims. Employers should have a written, but flexible, plan setting out business targets. They must consider how employees will contribute to achieving the

plan, and how development needs will be assessed and met. The management is also required to communicate to all employees a clear sense of the organisation's aims and the contribution that employees will make to its success.

Secondly, the National Standard requires regular review of all employees' training and development needs. Managers must agree these needs with each employee in the context of business aims, setting targets and standards.

Thirdly, action should focus on new recruits' training needs, and all employees should be encouraged to identify their own job-related development needs.

Finally, an IIP candidate organisation should review and improve the competence and commitment of employees, and the effectiveness of training and development programmes.

The Government believes its IIP scheme is aiding economic effectiveness by setting a standard of excellence. For employers, such as the institute, the scheme is a useful external discipline to ensure that staff development policies are linked effectively to business aims.

Not surprisingly, the scheme's value has been recognised by a number of national accountancy firms, which have



Andrew Colquhoun says the scheme can improve ICA's service

won — or are working towards — accreditation. Like the institute, they have not found the scheme a walk-over. Assessment is rigorous; for instance, about a fifth of staff had confidential interviews with an independent assessor who visited the insti-

tute in a review lasting several days to collect evidence on whether it was reaching assessment benchmarks. "To get to that point required sustained work since signing on the dotted line with the City of London Training and Enter-

prise Council, our local awarding body, 15 months ago.

We have now set up a staff training and development programme explicitly linked to the annual planning process. We also put more effort into analysing the effectiveness of training. The result is that the training budget is now better focused on business priorities.

Last year, training money was allocated to marketing and project management to help our communications and education and training teams to carry out major campaigns. Special effort also went into training managers to ensure that they were all willing and able to take personal responsibility for staff development.

Creating an understanding of the direction taken by management is a key requirement of the IIP scheme. Responding to this, we set out to overhaul and strengthen staff communications. The regular staff newsletter and monthly presentation by each department have proved their worth in helping staff to understand the institute's aims and activities.

The direct cost of implementing the IIP programme was surprisingly slight. Rather, we re-focused existing expenditure on staff development to increase cost-effectiveness.

Qualifying for the IIP "Oscar" has been hard work, but worthwhile. Members of staff are now more motivated, with better job satisfaction and career opportunities. Our training is more relevant to business needs. Staff should be better equipped to provide a good service to members. One strength of the IIP scheme is that organisations are not allowed to become complacent. We face re-accreditation in three years' time, and shall be expected to show continuing improvement in training and development. The laurels awarded in the IIP scheme are not for resting on.

□ Andrew Colquhoun is chief executive of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

ROBERT BRUCE

Softly-softly on the matter of liability

THERE is something to be said for being a native of a younger and more vigorous country than ours. People tend to be blunter and clearer about what they see as wrong. And they tend not to hedge about the concept of injustice with mumbled reasoning as to why something that is undoubtedly unfair should not be set to rights.

The report of the professional liability steering group on joint and several liability, which has been sent to the Department of Trade and Industry, does its best to redress that balance. It does so, in part, by simply including papers on the topic from both the US and Canada. Both clear away the cobwebs in noisy fashion. But the report itself has taken a leaf out of the book of those countries, and they are now in the majority, that have adopted the solution of some form of proportionate liability.

To begin at the beginning. This report is the profession's official response to Professor Andrew Burrows, author of the Law Com-



ROBERT BRUCE

mission's feasibility report on joint and several liability. This is how it sums up the central issue: "We believe that the issue of professional liability is the most serious to have faced the auditing profession, as well as many others, for a lifetime. The Law Commission recognises this in its report. There is currently a profound imbalance in the risk-reward relationship of auditing resulting from the operation of the law of joint and several liability. Auditors are being sued for amounts totally out of proportion to their involvement in alleged wrongdoings. The cost of defending and, where necessary, settling these claims is a substantial burden on the profession, especially since insurance cover is unavailable for many larger firms."

That, in a sizeable nutshell, is that. Only by making professionals proportionately liable can the problem be addressed. So where do we go from here? If we were any other country than the United Kingdom, something might change as a result of the overwhelming evidence of injustice. But, as the Burrows report made plain, change should not happen, the main argument being that injustice and unfairness have no central role in the law. It is the principles of the law that matter. And, in a situation like this, where only a change to the principles could bring justice, then Professor Burrows

is sorry, but justice is hardly the priority. Contrast this, as the report does, with the rest of the world. Within the European Union, "proportionate liability applies to auditors in nearly twice as many member states as does joint and several liability". Even Switzerland, that touchstone of respectability and conservatism, changed the law some four years ago.

"In the United States," the report points out, "proportionate liability in cases against auditors predominates at both the federal and state level. In the Commonwealth, particularly Australia, reform has already taken place and further change is imminent."

The report includes a paper written by two US experts on how proportionate liability came to win the day over there. They have examined the Burrows report as part of the paper. "The arguments discussed in the report also were the focus of the debate in the United States," they say. "The US decision makers reached the opposite conclusion. They go on to discuss the arguments both inside and out of Congress but there, in that sentence, you have the reason why they reached the opposite conclusion to that of the UK legal greybeards."

The word is decision-makers. In the US, the arguments were between people to whom making decisions is a central part of their life and business. The Burrows committee made the fact that they could not take any decisions a justification for ignoring anything that smelled dangerously of pragmatism. On the basis of this heavyweight response from the profession there is a hefty and unavoidable case to answer. Graham Ward of Price Waterhouse, the steering group's chairman, sees some hope. "If the DTI didn't see the possibility of change then they wouldn't have gone through the consultative process. They would simply have said 'Burrows sees no reason for a change in the law so that's that.'"

But this is Britain and you can only push very quietly for a decision. The report suggests that a further study should be carried out. "This study would best be carried out by a departmental advisory committee," it argues. This is probably the correct way for the DTI to proceed. But it should do so with speed. And in the best traditions of such bodies someone should provide it at the outset with the details of the conclusion to which it is expected to come.

Finding rhyme in self-assessment

THE onset of self-assessment in the tax world does concentrate the mind. So much so that a little light relief is required. The Chartered Institute of Taxation has decided to offer a magnum of champagne for the best clerical that readers of this page can come up with to celebrate, illuminate or vilify the self-assessment system.

The bright spark who thought this up is John Andrews, of Coopers & Lybrand,

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

and his effort to show the way runs as follows:

The Inland Revenue online Self-assessment is fine But for me and for you I doubt if it's true

Well, as they always say at this point, if you think you can do better than that... Send your entries to John Andrews, c/o The Chartered Institute of Taxation, 12 Upper Belgrave Street, London SW1X 8BB. Or

fax them on 0171-235 2562. The closing date is May 20.

Not too taxing

When self-assessment becomes fact next spring, the taxmen of Britain are going to need protection from all the flak they are going to get. They should hark back to more pleasant times.

In a recent symposium of papers from an Institute for Fiscal Studies conference,

KPMG's Roger White, quoted this recruitment advertisement for inspectors of taxes in the interwar period.

"The work is congenial to anyone of education, there is no irksome interference from unsympathetic masters, no hidebound regulations or cast iron codes; above all remuneration and leisure provide the means and the opportunities of cultivating hobbies and favourite pastimes," it said.

Time to light up my pipe and ponder the cricket scores, I think.

ROBERT BRUCE

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

STOCK MARKET			BOND MARKET		
Symbol	Price	Change	Symbol	Price	Change
IBM	125.00	+0.25	U.S. Gov. 10yr	102.15	+0.05
Microsoft	145.00	+1.00	U.S. Gov. 5yr	101.75	+0.05
Apple	110.00	+0.50	U.S. Gov. 3yr	101.50	+0.05
Amazon	180.00	+2.00	U.S. Gov. 1yr	101.25	+0.05
Google	210.00	+1.50	Corp. Aaa	100.75	+0.05
Facebook	190.00	+1.00	Corp. Aa	100.50	+0.05
Twitter	45.00	+0.25	Corp. A	100.25	+0.05
LinkedIn	35.00	+0.15	Corp. Baa	100.00	+0.05
Slack	25.00	+0.10	Corp. Ba	99.75	+0.05
Zoom	15.00	+0.05	Corp. B	99.50	+0.05
Dropbox	12.00	+0.05	Corp. Caa	99.25	+0.05
Box	10.00	+0.05	Corp. C	99.00	+0.05
OneDrive	8.00	+0.05	Corp. D	98.75	+0.05
SharePoint	7.00	+0.05	Corp. Daa	98.50	+0.05
Office 365	6.00	+0.05	Corp. E	98.25	+0.05
Windows 10	5.00	+0.05	Corp. Eaa	98.00	+0.05
Windows 7	4.00	+0.05	Corp. F	97.75	+0.05
Windows XP	3.00	+0.05	Corp. Faa	97.50	+0.05
Windows Vista	2.00	+0.05	Corp. G	97.25	+0.05
Windows 8	1.00	+0.05	Corp. Gaa	97.00	+0.05
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UCL HOSPITALS

FOCUS

Jeremy Laurance introduces a three-page report with a look at University College London's pioneering Cruciform Project

Teaming up for discovery

A transformation in the world of academic research is unfolding in London. A new Institute of Strategic Research devoted to understanding the basic mechanisms that underlie the major Western killers of heart disease, cancer and neuro-degenerative disorders is being planned.

It is not the size of the new institute that makes it remarkable, although with 300 scientists it will be one of the largest in the country. What will set the Cruciform Project apart from other research institutes will be the way it is organised. In place of separate departments, the institute will operate as a large multidisciplinary team working towards a common objective — using basic molecular science to unlock the secrets of the late 20th century's commonest diseases.

The institute will be part of University College, London, and have a unique role in bridging the divide between academia and the drug industry. It will occupy the Cruciform Building of the former University College Hospital covering 16,000 square metres on four floors.

The £41.5 million cost of buying and refurbishing it will be met in part by an £11.5 million grant from the Wellcome Trust. With an opening date of spring 1998, its annual running costs are expected to be £15 million, half from grants and half from industry.

The building, which dates from 1905, was excellent for combating infection in the days before antibiotics but poses difficulties for someone

trying to plan a laboratory with the maximum degree of interaction. Professor Salvador Moncada, director of the institute, believes that cross fertilisation is the key to progress in science.

"The problems we face now — heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer's disease — require a multidisciplinary approach. Many of the molecular mechanisms that underlie these conditions are similar and we want to go for molecular targets. That is the direction in which progress is likely to be most rapid."

This approach, Professor Moncada acknowledges, challenges preconceptions. Those who join the institute will not only have to be excellent scientists, they will also need to be philosophically convinced that the joint approach is the best way of working.



Professor Salvador Moncada and Professor John Pattison, the Dean of UCLMS, outside the Cruciform building

Professor Moncada was born in Honduras and did his medical training in El Salvador before coming to England in 1970. In the mid-1970s he joined Wellcome, becoming UK research director in 1980. He left to set up the new institute at the end of last year. He knows the pressures on

drug-company laboratories to find a product that can be marketed tomorrow. As the companies switch their emphasis from basic research to development — getting a molecule and running with it fast to produce a new drug — they need support in basic science. "We believe we can fill that

niche. Having been in industry, we can talk about an idea and progress it to the drug prototype. Industrial partners can then pick it up and make a medicine out of it."

Professor Moncada's best-known work is on nitric oxide, a pollutant which, it turns out, has a key role in an extraordinary

range of living processes, including cell regulation, blood pressure control, memory, gastro-intestinal function, airways diameter and penile erection. He says: "It is just as if we had found the big key in biology and re-opened understanding in many different fields."

Research put into practice

The idea of research scientists being able to take their findings through to practical application in a seamless transfer of knowledge is an exciting one, Pat Blair writes. It is a concept that is now possible thanks to the introduction of the Cruciform Project.

The concept has the backing of UCL and its medical school. Professor Salvador Moncada has drawn in four other principal investigators and their teams, all eminent in their fields. Two, like the professor, are basic scientists. Professor John Garthwaite was the first to demonstrate the role of nitric oxide as a messenger in the brain and Professor Ken Powell, formerly head of biology at Wellcome, is known for his

work on viruses, especially herpes viruses and HIV. The other two are also clinical doctors who still see patients. Professor John Martin, British Heart Foundation professor of cardiovascular studies, formerly combined a clinical career at King's College with the post of head of cardiovascular research at the Wellcome Laboratories, and Professor Patrick Vallance is head of clinical pharmacology at UCL.

The project is a formidable force and one that will help to draw scientific teams, and their funding, back to Britain from overseas. Fifty scientists are already at work and Professor John Pattison, Dean of UCL Medical School, says he anticipates little difficulty in finding more.

In the past, in Britain, there has been innovation but also problems with practical applications, says Professor Moncada. "We want to bridge the gap, and if any group can do

it, we can. I came with an idea. John Pattison liked it, and Derek Roberts (the university Provost) was enthusiastic. Both have welcomed us and created the conditions to make it happen."

Their laboratories will be open to medical school and hospital researchers. The ground floor and basement of the building will become a world-class education centre for the medical school.

The proposed 600-bed NHS hospital, to be situated alongside the Cruciform building, is planned for 2001 and will provide the greater physical proximity needed between academic research and clinical practice.

"The medical school has an excellent relationship with the hospital and we are confident that will get even stronger with the Cruciform Project and the new hospital project coming to fruition," says Professor Pattison.

The UCL Hospitals Trust chairman, Sir Ronald Mason, himself a physicist, says: "My only insistence was that there should be a seamlessness between the clinical scientists and the clinicians. I knew if we had the clinical scientists working side by side with the clinicians who can take it into the ward, then you're getting as close as you can to the optimum way of translating research results into practice."

As the project develops, clinicians and scientists within UCL Hospitals and the other research institutes are beginning to look closely at ways in which they might be involved. If all goes according to plan Britain is likely to have a major new collaboration — a force that could equal or better the best in the world.

A force that could better the best in the world

THE MAGNIFICENT SIX

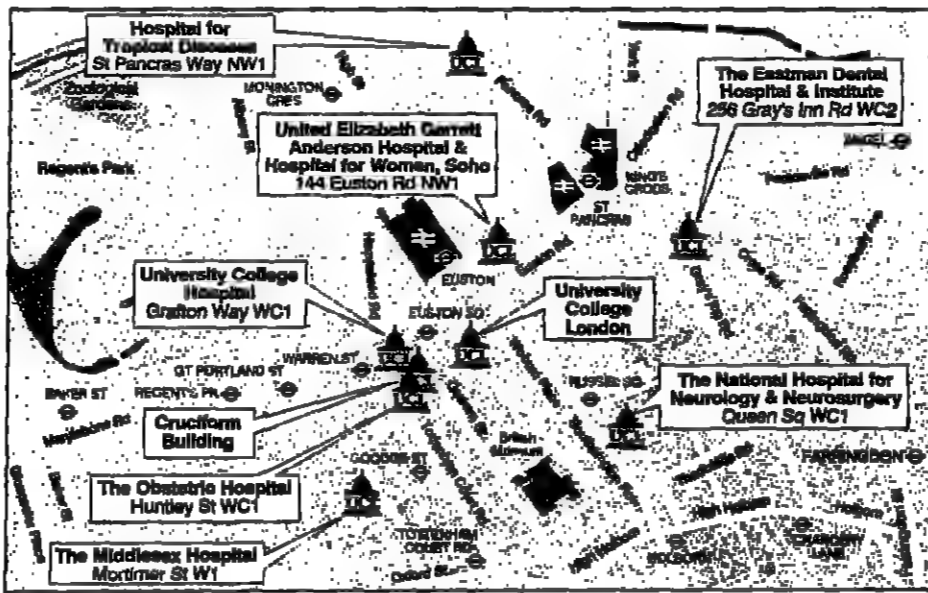
TO THE layman, organisational changes involving University College London, the hospitals that co-operate and collaborate with it, and their institutes, seem not unlike musical chairs. There has long been a cross-fertilisation between them in the treatment of patients, the teaching of medical staff, and academic research.

In broad terms, however, they are regrouping as follows. Six hospitals have come together under one banner and comprise the UCL Hospitals NHS Trust: the Eastman Dental Hospital, the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, the Middlesex, the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, and University College Hospital (UCH), which includes the Obstetric Hospital. The six hospitals all have good cross-border links with neighbouring

NHS trusts — which include Great Ormond Street, the Whittington and the Royal Free.

On the academic side, the two medical schools of the Middlesex and UCH have merged to become part of the university, while the medical school at the Royal Free is set to join them. Some research institutes associated with UCL Hospitals are in the process of phasing into a complete link-up with the university: for example, the Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery, based at the National, is now affiliated to the university and will become part of it in August 1997.

Some NHS doctors hold joint appointments, set up between hospitals both within the UCL Hospitals Trust and with neighbouring NHS trusts, while other doctors hold joint appointments with the university and the NHS.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL ON ITS 250TH ANNIVERSARY (1746-1996)

University College London Hospitals in association with University College London Medical School congratulate the Middlesex Hospital and all staff, past and present, upon 250 years of medical progress in the delivery of treatment and care to patients, teaching to medical, nursing and paramedical students, and research into the causes of disease and their cure.

Well done to the Middlesex Hospital — Medical excellence in the heart of London



University College London Hospitals incorporates the Eastman Dental Hospital, The United Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and Hospital for Women, Soho, the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, the Middlesex Hospital, the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, and University College Hospital.

Why heartache is good for you

Last week, two distinguished universities thousands of miles apart agreed to set up a joint chair of cardiovascular research: this month, the search will start for a candidate to fill the new post.

It has all been arranged by two men with international reputations, Derek Yellon, professor of cellular cardiology and head of the Hatter Institute, part of UCL, in London and Professor Lionel Opie, director of the University of Cape Town Heart Research Laboratories, in South Africa.

It is a matter of pride for the institute, set up only six years ago by Professor Yellon and Dr Malcolm Walker, consultant cardiologist and clinical director for cardiac services at University College Hospital (UCH). They envisaged a centre to encourage close links between practising doctors and basic scientists, believing that it was the way forward in heart research.

Since then, research work at the institute, which is housed in the UCH basement, has led to more than 90 published papers and abstracts.

The collaboration means that tissue taken from heart patients during operations, which once would have been discarded, is now sent to the laboratory.

This is helping in the search to understand how the heart protects itself from lethal attacks, a concept known as ischaemic pre-conditioning. Previously, it was thought that drugs used to treat the symptoms of angina were not only doing so but were also giving added protection to the heart. It is now believed that short bursts of angina can help to protect against a subsequent lethal heart attack.

"It is the most powerful form of protection that we know of to date," says Professor Yellon. "We now have to find out what is happening during these short bursts, what substances are being released, to see if we can mimic it with a drug. We're

Pat Blair reports on why working together is the answer to our understanding of how the body acts to protect itself from disease

the first group actually to take it into the clinic and show that short bursts of angina given to patients undergoing coronary bypass surgery can protect the heart against a longer episode."

As a clinician, Dr Walker sees this as a potential for the future. Doctors, he said, had believed that heart pain due to a lack of blood supply must cause damage every time it happened. "This has made us look again. It may not be quite as stark and bleak as we thought. Such intrinsic protective mechanisms may mean that those events may get a heart prepared in case of a more major attack."

Professor Yellon says: "We have to listen to what the heart is trying to say and develop the therapy to mimic what's going on."

But cardiac services is not alone in its collaboration between hospital and university. Indeed, the independent specialist review of cancer services in the capital favoured developing the UCH/Middlesex unit because of "the range and quality of its research services", the presence of a large haematology service, and because it "would attract further high-calibre research funding, given the proximity of University College".

Professor Robert Souhami, professor of clinical oncology and director of research and development, believes that in the face of stiff competition it was their joint approach that in 1994 won them the Queen's Anniversary Prize for their contribution to cancer research and treatment.

The hospital and university

have been a major influence in the development of high-dose chemotherapy and in using techniques such as bone-marrow and stem-cell transplants — the haematology department has carried out more than 1,000 transplants.

The clinical cancer department is a key centre in Europe for the treatment of primary cancer in bone, and has led the way in treating teenagers, starting the clinical specialty of cancer in adolescence. It is one of the major contributors to national studies using randomised trials of cancer treatment for lungs, breast, ovaries and testes.

"On the purely laboratory scientific side, we have been a major player in the field of understanding how anti-cancer drugs work, and how they attack the DNA in cancer cells," says Professor Souhami.

Dr Tony Goldstone, the hospitals' medical director and clinical director for haematology, says that in haematology, it has always been an integrated university and NHS department, with a total mixture of staff at senior level. The research focus into how the blood works relates closely to the disorders such as leukaemias and lymphomas.

"It's a very close link indeed between the basic approach and the bedside, perhaps the shortest chain of all in terms of the effect of what's going on in the laboratory and in patient care." In blood cancers, he says, almost every patient is on a research-based protocol.

He is proud of how successful haematology has been in the new NHS marketplace. "We really understand the issues of the market and have built up a major practice in what, fortunately, are rare diseases — leukaemia and lymphoma," he says.

"We have had to compete for years to get our patient-referral base. And this has made us aware, in central London in particular, that you have to be better to keep up."



In the lab: Derek Yellon, professor of cellular cardiology and head of the Hatter Institute and Laboratory at UCLH



On the ward: Dr Jean McEwan, consultant cardiologist. UCLH encourages links between doctors and scientists

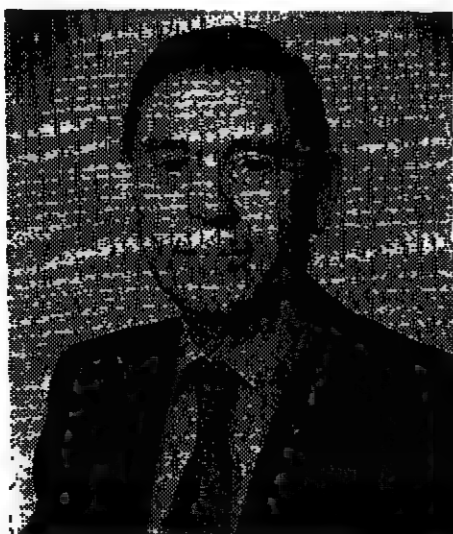
PIONEERING CANCER CLINIC

ENGLAND'S first adolescent cancer unit, which has led to others starting up around the country, was opened in UCLH. Now, says Dr Tony Goldstone, the hospital's medical director, the aim is to develop an area in the Middlesex to provide a 14 to 18-bed adolescent unit, treating a variety of diseases and conditions, including juvenile rheumatological diseases.

"We hope this will happen before the end of this financial year," he says. It will provide social, psychological and education support for young people who may already have spent a lot of their childhood in or associated with hospitals. "They and

their families have often led very stressful lives," he says. "The unit has got to be in an environment that is a bit less rigid than most hospital environments — the adolescent equivalent of the playroom in a paediatric ward, with computers and video games rather than little cars to ride round on."

It will bridge the gaps between paediatric and adult services. "As children grow up it is widely known that their follow-up, spread over a variety of hospitals in small numbers, is not very good. We want to develop that area as a major interest of the UCLH NHS Trust," Dr Goldstone says.



We are celebrating and giving thanks today to the Middlesex Hospital and all staff, past and present, for their invaluable contribution to the health of the capital over the last 250 years, and to progress in medical science. The Middlesex is one important forerunner to University College London Hospitals and continues the tradition of excellence in the health services we provide to patients, the teaching we give to medical, nursing and paramedical students and the research which translates into quality of care. On the 1st of April, 1996 we welcomed the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery and the Eastman Dental Hospital into our Trust, which had included the Middlesex Hospital, University College Hospital, the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and Hospital for Women, Soho and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases. This network of famous hospitals is enabling us to build on existing strengths and create new opportunities for achieving an acute hospital group and medical networks that will stand comparison with any institution, nationally or internationally. The establishment of the Institute for Strategic Medical Research in the Cruciform building, reflects the close relationship with University College and its Medical School. The realisation of our plans to bring most of our services together onto one site, adjacent to the Cruciform development, will provide our patients and staff with modern facilities they have for so long been waiting and which they so much deserve. The UCL Hospitals take their place at the forefront of healthcare provision in London as we look confidently into the new Millennium.

Ronald Mason.

Sir Ronald Mason KCB, FRCS,
Chairman, University College London Hospitals NHS Trust

The University College London Hospitals, St. Martin's House, 140 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LN
Telephone 0171-387 9300

Seeing how the brain works

NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY

Last month, in Queen Square, central London, the official opening of a £25-million functional brain imaging laboratory was held. Funded by the Wellcome Trust, the laboratory is recognised as the world's leading centre for seeing how the brain works.

That the opening attracted 300 people from around the globe is a measure of the standing of the 300-bed National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery and the Institute of Neurology, the academic institution with which it works closely.

"A pivotal role as one of the most important centres for treatment, training and research in Europe" is how the National was described three years ago in a report by an independent team reviewing the future of specialist services in London.

In the National's case, the specialist services are clinical neurosciences — the investigation, treatment and care of patients suffering from diseases of the nervous system. These include stroke, the aftermath of head injury, cerebral palsy, tumours, inherited diseases, migraine and multiple sclerosis.

The hospital draws patients from around the na-

tion: Professor David Marsden, Dean of the Institute of Neurology, says it has contracts with every health authority.

A third of patients come from within the North Thames region — "we have the direct responsibility of providing the neurological and neurosurgical services", he says. The two thirds come equally, "with the uncommon diseases", from the other Thames regions and the rest of Britain. Together, hospital and institute account for between a third and a half of all the UK's research in the field, and form one of the world's biggest centres for clinical neuroscience.

With an annual budget of £80 million, and 400 research clinical staff, their pedigree is impressive: "We have a whole collection of major themes which drive the hospital and the institute both in clinical work and research work," Professor Marsden says.

Britain's biggest epilepsy surgery centre, it also runs the National Epilepsy Society's centre at Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire — Britain's referral centre for difficult epilepsies for chronic assessment and care.

It is helping to pioneer surgical treatment of advanced Parkinson's disease, in which surgery may be the alternative answer to drugs. It is also the reference centre for the European Union's multiple sclerosis (MS) team: all the results of trials of MS treatments are fed back to Queen Square for assessment.

MS provides an example of the partnership between the institute and the hospital. Professor Marsden says: "Up until the last four or five years, nothing could be done to prevent the repeated episodes and progressive deterioration." Treatments have now been designed which may affect the fundamental process of MS, to stop the repeated attacks and increasing dis-

ability. Although the treatment was not devised at Queen Square — it derived from physics — the method of assessing it by magnetic resonance imaging, which shows the actual episodes of inflammation of the brain, was conceived there.

With the Royal Free Hospital, the National runs a joint peripheral nerve and muscle service. It also has close links with Great Ormond Street children's hospital, with which it shares genetic testing: National doctors hold clinics at Great Ormond Street, while the latter's doctors teach paediatric neurology to National neurologists.

For teenagers with disabling neurological disease, the two hospitals are trying to set up an adolescent unit to bridge the gap between child and adult services.

With the National's entry last month into UCL Hospitals Trust, the trust has inherited one of the world's biggest centres for clinical neuroscience. Meanwhile, the National has gained a new security in being part of a development in treatment, teaching and research that could set Britain alight.

Patients come from around the nation

Only the best under one roof

THE NEW HOSPITAL

London has been accused of having too many hospitals. But in the year 2001, if things go to plan, it will have three fewer — and to replace them, a new 600-bed hospital.

In a tough economic and political climate, it is no mean feat to have won Whitehall agreement in principle that the £115 million project can go ahead. Yet that is what the University College Hospitals NHS Trust has achieved.

This month, specifications are being sent to the three shortlisted consortia invited to provide bids to build the new hospital for the trust. Negotiations would start towards the end of this year and a scheme should be put to the Treasury around next January.

If all goes according to plan, the new hospital will contain, on a single campus, four of the six hospitals that now form the trust: the four being the Middlesex, the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the Hospital for Tropical Diseases and Univer-

sity College Hospital. The other two, the National and the Eastman Dental Hospital, will remain where they are.

"Even if you think there are too many hospitals in London, the way to go about things is not to wait until the old ones fall down. That is not in anybody's interests," says Charles Marshall, the trust's chief executive.

"We have a number of facilities that are ageing and very expensive to run and maintain. There is no evidence that there aren't patients who need them — quite the contrary. We can provide more of those patients with a service to a much higher quality and for less money if we replace the facilities."

Under the Government's private finance initiative, the trust is seeking someone to build and run the building, and would entertain proposals to run the hotel services —

catering, portering, cleaning, maintenance — which are already required to go to tender every few years.

But Mr Marshall makes clear that, as far as the trust is concerned: "The clinical and diagnostic services — direct and indirect patient care — are not part of the deal. We've been very clear that as a trust we exist to run health services."

All the institutions which the trust proposes to bring together have gained national, even world-wide eminence in their patient care, treatment, medical teaching and academic research.

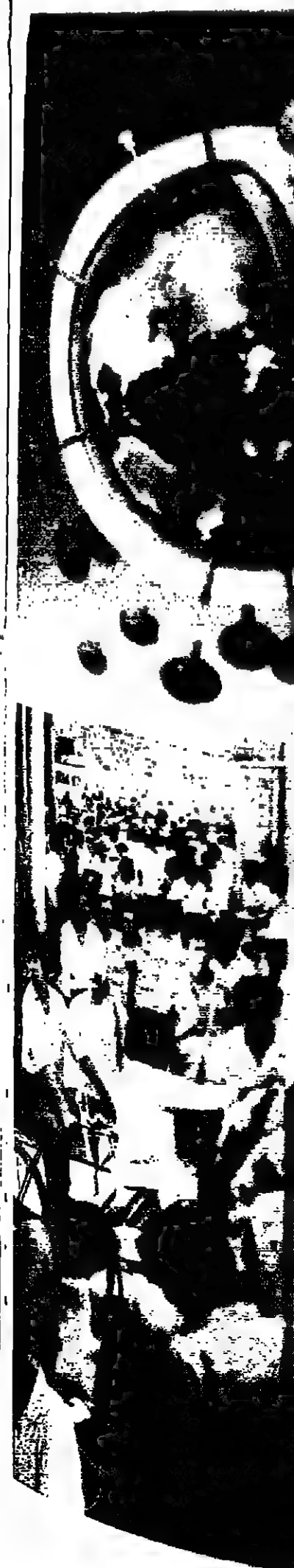
From both the hospital and the academic aspects, the trust is bringing together a group of particularly eminent institutions, not merely to give them greater security — which it does — but also the opportunity to share overheads and deal

with year-to-year volatility in contract income," says Mr Marshall.

The result should mean that specialists gain a greater degree of security, the size of the set-up to which they belong providing a cushion against further changes in health care provision and enabling the trust to take a long-term view. With their links to University College London, an opportunity should be created for synergy in clinical treatment and academic research "to create something that is larger than the sum of its parts".

"The object is to place these institutions in the sort of shape — both physical and in terms of skills and attitudes — to enable them to be at least as eminent and relevant 50 years from now as they have been thus far in their history," says Mr Marshall.

"In the end we ought to be at the disposal of the GP and the district hospitals, rather than being an ivory tower in central London."



مركز من الأصل

An honourable new beginning

Pat Blair looks at the history of a hospital renowned for its teaching, nursing and medical advances

Today about 500 people will attend a service in St Martin's in the Fields to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Middlesex, one of the oldest hospitals in London and renowned for the quality of its nursing care, teaching and medical advances. Only six years after Roentgen discovered X-rays, for example, it pioneered their clinical use.

On November 11, 1746, the Middlesex Hospital was formally named, having opened the year before as the Middlesex Infirmary. George II was on the throne and Pitt the Elder was Prime Minister.

The hospital opened with 18 beds. Eleven years later, it moved to a newly built hospital with 64 beds. From the beginning, the Middlesex admitted medical students: in 1757, they paid 15 guineas a year to be resident surgical pupils.

In the early 19th century, the history of the Middlesex became linked with that of University College London, which sought to arrange for medical students to receive clinical training at the Middlesex. While hospital governors were considering this, the

university jumped the gun and advertised in *The Times* for medical students, citing attendance at the Middlesex. Affronted, the governors declined the role of hospital to the medical school.

For six years, UCL medical school had no attached hospital, until in 1834 it opened the North London Hospital (to become University College Hospital). At the same time, the Middlesex opened its own medical school. It proved to be the start of a rivalry involving medical and academic politics that continued for decades.

During the late 1800s, the Middlesex continued to expand: bed numbers grew, an outpatients department was built, a nurses' home and, in 1890, its chapel, now a listed building. In 1896, the medical school and hospital amalgamated and investment was made in an up-to-date school.

With the advent of the NHS in 1948, medical school and hospital became legally separate, although they co-operated as closely as ever. The physicians and surgeons, who until then had been honorary, unpaid staff, became salaried consultants.

It was probably the 1974



Giving thanks: the Rev David Mason, chaplain of the Middlesex Hospital Chapel, which opened on Christmas Day, 1891

NHS reorganisation, however, that caused greatest upset with the abolition of the board of governors. Eight years later came another reorganisation, abolishing one management tier and bringing the Middlesex and University College Hospital under one administrative district.

Since then, there has been a constant process of change and amalgamation of services. At the same time, the medical schools of the two hospitals have grown closer: in 1987 they became one. The University College London Medical School.

With the introduction of self-governing trusts, in 1994 the Middlesex became part of

UCL Hospitals NHS Trust. By last year plans were launched to replace the Middlesex with a 600-bed acute teaching hospital. This month those proposals go out to tender.

It is an honourable new beginning, 250 years after the Middlesex first opened its doors to "the sick and lame of Soho".

CHRONOLOGY

1746: Middlesex opens.
1757: Moves to its present site.
1774: Students form the Medical Society, second oldest in the UK.
1788: West wing opens.
1790: East wing opens.
1825: University College seeks formal links; rejected.
1834: North London Hospital (University College Hospital) opens.
1835: Middlesex Medical School opens.
1825: "Crumbing" Middlesex forced to close.
1838: Rebuilt hospital re-opens, with 715 beds.
1948: Health Service established.
1974: NHS reorganisation; hospital board abolished.
1982: Middlesex and University College Hospital are brought under one administrative NHS district.
1987: First entry to the single school of medicine, The University College London Medical School.
1991: The NHS marketplace is established.
1994: Middlesex becomes part of a "shadow" NHS Trust, in preparation for full trust status.
1995: Plans launched to replace the Middlesex Hospital with a 600-bed acute teaching hospital.
1996: The UCL Hospitals NHS Trust incorporates all hospitals.



Dr Malcolm Walker performs an operation in the cardiac catheterisation laboratory

Flood alert: how a hospital coped with evacuation

It must be every hospital manager's nightmare. The beds are full, post-operative patients are recovering, pre-operative patients are arriving — yet the entire hospital must be evacuated.

It happened at University College Hospital a few weeks ago, when the water main burst in the boiler-room, submerging all the boilers and part of the stand-by generator. There was no heating or hot water: had there been a power cut, there would have been no electricity.

Within hours of taking the decision to evacuate, however, all the hospital's patients — including tiny babies in its renowned neonatal unit — had been decamped.

On any day there are normally between 20 and 30 patients ready for discharge and a similar number who have been admitted in preparation for operations. All of them were sent home. Those due to come in were asked not to, and the London Ambulance Service was asked to take emergency cases elsewhere for a while.

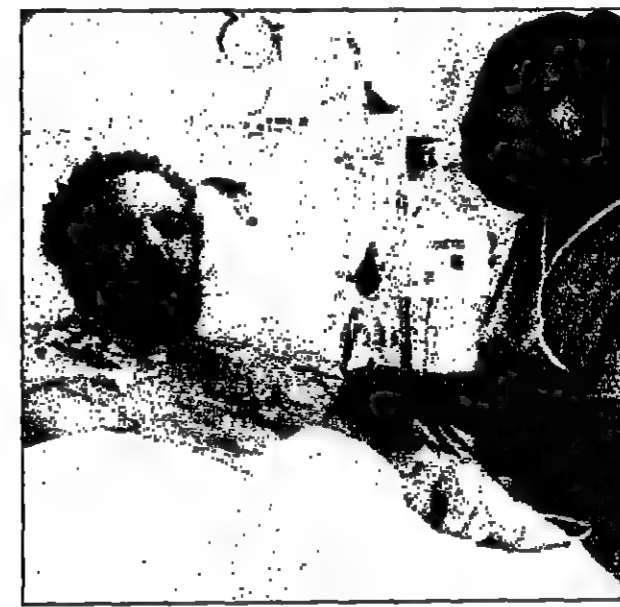
Maternity patients moved to the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

Hospital (EGA), to a ward that was not in use. "In the course of that day, we evacuated 202 in-patients from UCH, largely to the Middlesex, the EGA and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases," says Charles Marshall, the trust's chief executive. Babies, some in ventilators, were shipped out to Great Ormond Street and St Mary's. "To my surprise, from being 95 per cent full when we made the decision that we had to evacuate, by 9pm — 10 hours later — we had everybody accommodated," says Mr Marshall.

To the chief executive, it was very reassuring to know that the hospital system would be able to cope with a major accident. UCH is, after all, one of the main central London hospitals on call for large-scale emergencies, such as the King's Cross fire.

"Even in a major accident, you would not expect to have to cope with 200 admissions to hospital in the course of a few hours — although you might have more than that as casualties," Mr Marshall says.

He is proud of how everyone coped. "It went like clockwork. It was astonishing."



A patient receives attention in the intensive care unit

SPECIALIST HOSPITALS

IF YOU return from the Tropics with a rare fever, develop an unusual mouth condition or want to see a woman specialist, your local general hospital may be unable to help — but UCL Hospitals can.

Three hospitals in the group — the Eastman Dental Hospital, the Hospital for Tropical Diseases and the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital — are acknowledged experts in their specialities.

The Eastman, one of the largest specialist oral health and research centres in Europe, trains dental nurses, hygienists and technicians, and provides further education for dentists.

The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital has long

been known for its treatment of women by women, and UCL Hospitals has preserved that concept. In fact the group devotes a great deal of energy and resources to women's health, from genetic counselling to maternity and neonatal care.

The 25-cot neonatal unit has helped babies with birthweights as low as 500 grams to survive: the youngest survivor was born at only 23 weeks.

At the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Dr Peter Chiodini is the NHS's only consultant parasitologist. The hospital also houses the UK's only consultant leprosy specialist, Dr Diana Lockwood. It has close links with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

It takes partnership to solve today's medical problems, and tomorrow's.

As we stand on the threshold of a new millennium, two thirds of the world's 30,000 known diseases are still without a cure and the medical problems facing us outnumber the solutions in view.

Bayer is one of the world's foremost healthcare companies, a position based on more than a century of researching new approaches to combat illness. This commitment increasingly relies on building lasting partnerships with centres of medical excellence such as the University College London Hospitals NHS Trust.

We congratulate the Middlesex Hospital, part of the Trust, as they look back on 250 years of pioneering medicine. No-one knows what the next 250 years will hold, or even the next 25, but you can be sure that Bayer, together with many of the world's leading medical researchers, will continue to push back the limits of our current understanding to increase the quality and duration of life, and alleviate suffering.

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Boat v Boat
Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Waite and Sir Iain Gidwell
[Judgment April 19]

A claim on a contract of loan, which satisfied the conditions provided in section 6(3) of the Limitation Act 1980, namely no provision for a fixed payment date and omission of any provision making the loan repayable on demand, was not caught by the six-year time bar imposed by section 5, so that time ran from the date of any written demand for repayment rather than from the date of the loan.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing the appeal of the plaintiff, Colin Boat, against the judgment of Judge Cottrell on April 12, 1995, in *Taunton County Council v Boat*, in which the court had dismissed the plaintiff's application to strike out the defendant's claim on the ground that it was statute-barred by section 5 of the 1980 Act.

Mr Jonathan Holt-Allen for the plaintiff; Mr John Isherwood for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that the plaintiff agreed to sell a property in Ilfracombe, occupied by his son, against the defendant, for £33,000 in 1983; £8,000 of which was by way of loan by the plaintiff secured by a promissory note signed by the couple. It read: "We... hereby jointly and severally promising to pay to the plaintiff... on his order on demand the sum of £8,000."

The marriage failed, the couple separated and divorced and the plaintiff gave notice in 1990 demanding payment. When no

ing was paid he claimed against the defendant alone payment of the money due. The property had been transferred into her sole name by court order following financial proceedings.

The defendant applied to have the claim struck out as being statute-barred. The district judge decided the case on the basis of common sense and found in favour of the plaintiff. On the defendant's appeal, Judge Cottrell found that the loan claim was statute-barred on the basis that the promissory note was caught by the exception provided in section 6(3).

His Lordship said that there was a principle of common law, well established by authority, that a contract of loan under which the money lent was expressed to become repayable to the lender on demand imposed an immediate obligation of repayment on the borrower from the outset, regardless of whether any demand for repayment was made or not. See *In re J. Brown's Estate*, *Brown v Brown* [1983] 2 Ch 300, 304-305.

The Law Reform Committee, examining the law of limitation, in its *Final Report on Limitation of Actions* (21st report (1977) Cmd 6923) noted that the principle was liable to lead to unfairness and commented that when loans were made within a family or between friends there was a risk of lenders suffering an inadvertent barring of their claims to repayment through an erroneous assumption that there were no penalties for forbearance and that the claim could be left outstanding without risk of extinguishment until repayment was formally demanded.

The committee recommended a change in the law, so that where no date for repayment was specified, time should not begin to run in

favour of the borrower until the date on which a written demand for payment was first made.

The 1980 Act gave effect to the spirit of that recommendation, but preserved the rule in *Brown's case* by modifying its effect. The formula introduced by section 6(2) was undoubtedly elaborate, but was criticised as bewildering by both judges in the court below, but the general scheme in sections 5 and 6 was reasonably clear.

The potential hardship of the rule was mitigated by causing the six-year time bar imposed by section 5 to run, in the case of loans, from the date of any written demand for repayment rather than from the date of the loan. Such loans could be called qualifying loans.

Special provision was made, however, for cases where such qualifying loans were supported by a collateral security taken from the borrower. In such cases, of which a promissory note was specifically mentioned as an example, the terms of the collateral security had to be read not only into the loan agreement itself but also into the agreement itself notionalised by the conditions of a qualifying loan.

If the conditions were satisfied, the benefit of section 6 was retained and time would not run until a demand was made. Thus the judge in the present case had a two-fold duty: first, to decide whether the loan was a qualifying loan. He correctly held that it was, as the conditions in section 6(2)(a) and (b) were satisfied.

Second, he was obliged to consider the effect of the collateral security afforded by the promissory note in relation to the words of the exception to section 6(2), accurately summarised the inquiry he had to make, the terms of the note did indeed satisfy both conditions of a qualifying loan.

From that finding only one possible conclusion, in his Lordship's judgment, could be drawn, namely that the loan agreement had retained its status as a qualifying loan under section 6 because the terms of the promissory note would not, if applied directly to repayment of the debt, exclude the application of section 6 to repayment of the debt.

The judge had come to the opposite conclusion; he thought that the exclusion operated and the protection afforded by section 6(2) was lost. The inference seemed to be that the promissory note, by treating what was expressed as an exception to the application of section 6 as an exception to its non-application.

The judge's error might be explicable as a casualty of the kind that was liable to be suffered when the complexities of exception, exclusion and a deeming provision were all introduced together into a single subsection.

The correct conclusion was one to which the judge himself would have wished to come, that the loan satisfied section 6(2) and was supported by a collateral security which escaped the exclusion in the closing words of the subsection.

Sir Iain Gidwell agreed and Lord Justice Leggatt gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Bazley White & Co for Cross & Cross, Exeter; Annear, Ilfracombe.

Deciding adoption applications

In re H (A Minor) (Adoption application)
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Thorpe
[Judgment May 3]

The task of the court in determining an adoption application was to be performed, not by applying a test based on other cases, but by having regard to all the statutory considerations.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by the Secretary of State for the Home Office against an adoption order made by Mr Justice Holman.

Miss Lisa Giovannetti for the secretary of state; Miss Patricia Scotland, QC and Mr Khadim Al-Hassan for the applicants; Mr Richard H. Bond for the Official Solicitor.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE said that the appeal concerned two related families and the arrangements made for a child who was born on May 22, 1980 and was therefore nearly 16 years of age. By the appeal, the secretary of state challenged an adoption order made by the judge on November 13, 1985 in respect of the child and in favour of the applicants.

The applicants were in their late thirties. They came to the United Kingdom in the 1970s and married in 1978. They had both acquired United Kingdom citizenship and they had a settled life in Halifax. However, for 14 years after their marriage they struggled in vain to conceive a child. By 1992 they were resigned to adoption.

The child's natural parents were a related couple. By contrast they had a quiverful of children. The child in question was their sixth. The family lived in Pakistan, where the father had secure employment and the whole family a comfortable standard of living.

On July 21, 1992, the father arrived in England with the child and two other of his children for a family wedding in Halifax. The child's entry visa gave him permission to remain in the United Kingdom for six months as a visitor. On August 6, 1992 the child began to live with the applicants and his son and had so remained with them ever since.

Those circumstances and that chronology gave rise to many questions and some suspicions. However, the circumstances were fully investigated by the judge, who heard the applicants give oral evidence and accepted them as witnesses of truth.

The family arrangement was subsequently explained by the child's mother: "In Pakistan when a couple have no children and ask for one of yours you just give one as long as you know they are good people. God has given us so many children and they have none."

In March 1993 the Home Office refused an application for extension of the child's visa. In April an appeal was lodged against the refusal and an originating application issued in Halifax County Court seeking the child's adoption.

The application was transferred to the High Court in August and in February 1994 the secretary of state was joined as intervenor. The applicants were supported by the Official Solicitor.

The judge recorded how well the child had done in the applicant's care in the three years of their cohabitation. He had before him a letter that the child had written to the Official Solicitor expressing his strong wish not only to remain with the applicants but to be adopted by them.

The secretary of state did not seek to reverse the family arrangement. He took the point of principle that an adoption order should be refused on the application of dicta from past cases as to how the balance should be held between immigration regulations and controls and welfare and other considerations urged in support of adoption applications.

Miss Giovannetti traced the case law from *In re W* [1982] Fam 121 through *In re W* [1986] Fam 54 to *In re K* [1995] Fam 38.

In *In re H* Mr Justice Hollings had said (at p133): "If the court was set down for retrial before a different bench..."

Mr Mark Phelps for the applicants; Mr David Walden-Smith for the prosecution; the justices did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that the Divisional Court was asked to intervene to prevent a retrial because the procedure followed not only gave an appearance of unfairness but was in fact unfair.

His Lordship did not consider acceptable an order directing the justices to continue with the first trial on the basis that a ruling on admissibility had already been given.

Not only had there been a substantial passage of time such that it would be difficult to convene the bench and for the justices to pick up the threads, further continuation of a trial in the circumstances on the basis of wrong legal advice was not an attractive one.

Mr Phelps had submitted alternatively that a prohibition was called for in respect of a fresh trial. It was not just to subject the applicants to a fresh trial when there had been a reversal of legal advice as to the admissibility of evidence.

Mr Walden-Smith had countered that had the first trial continued and the applicant been acquitted, the prosecution would have asked the justices to state a case for the Divisional Court, and having been satisfied that the ruling as to admissibility was wrong, that court would have directed a retrial.

His Lordship could not accept that that assumption a retrial would have been ordered. There were matters of fact still to be resolved at trial and therefore there might have been more than one reason for acquittal.

Would the justices have acquitted merely because of the absence of excluded evidence was a matter of speculation. The Divisional Court did not routinely order a retrial on the basis that one single point of admissibility of evidence

considered on the evidence and information before it that the true motive of the application is based upon the desire to achieve nationality and the right of abode rather than the general welfare of the minor then an adoption order should not be made.

"In every case it is a matter of balancing welfare against public policy, and the wider implications of the public policy aspect the less weight may be attached to the aspect of the welfare of the particular individual."

Miss Giovannetti's essential submission was that in all those cases the court had balanced the motive to achieve nationality against the motive to promote the welfare of the child. A breach of immigration regulations or policy could only be outweighed by the promotion of the welfare of the child and not by any other consideration. She submitted that the applicants were not seeking to promote the welfare of the child but to resolve the personal tragedy of infertility. His Lordship found her submissions unconvincing.

In the ordinary adoption case the child would have been abandoned by its parents or its parents would be disqualified by disability or conduct from providing adequate parenting themselves. In these circumstances it was natural that the court should pose the question in the form that it had been posed, namely, was the aim of the application to achieve nationality or promote welfare? But, as the present exceptional case demonstrated, they were not the only aims that the court might have to consider.

Clearly the court had to be on guard against the possibility of abuse. In seeking to uphold immigration regulations and policy the court should investigate whether the arrangement culminating in the adoption application was a device to circumvent immigration regulations and controls.

The passage cited from *In re H* had subsequently been elevated into a two-stage test which did not

seem to have been the intention of Mr Justice Hollings. It was not so stated in *In re W*.

Mr Bond said that it had been given in *In re K* at first instance and the development was adopted by Lord Justice Balcombe in the Court of Appeal. His Lordship did not think that it was helpful. It risked complicating unnecessarily the essential judicial task.

The Family Division judge had to dispose of the adoption application by reference principally to section 6 of the Adoption Act 1976. By that section he had to have regard to all the circumstances, first but not paramount consideration being given to child welfare.

Although not referred to in the section, it was an important consideration that immigration regulations and policy should be upheld. A misuse of the right to apply for adoption as a device to circumvent immigration controls would always be fatal to an adoption application.

Nor could his Lordship conceive that in a case of blatant abuse the application might be rescued by the argument that subsequent delay had resulted in the development of circumstances justifying a submission that the refusal of the application would be contrary to the welfare considerations.

But, in the end, each case had to turn on its particular facts, and in determining the case the judge should have regard to the statutory considerations as expressed in section 6 of the 1976 Act without the elaboration of stages and with due regard to the considerations expressed by the Court of Appeal in *In re W*.

The conclusions reached by the judge were clearly open to him within the discretion that he exercised.

LORD JUSTICE PILL delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith agreed with both.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; John Delaney & Co, Leeds; Official Solicitor.

Unfairness in reversing legal ruling

Regina v Faversham and Sittingbourne Justices, Ex parte Sticks and Another
Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Newman
[Judgment April 29]

It was procedurally unfair for a judge to use powers under section 28 of the Justices of the Peace Act 1979 to advise a bench on a resumed hearing to reverse a ruling on a point of law after the lawfulness of the original ruling had been questioned in a private communication by the prosecutor.

There might be cases where either party was entitled before the resumed hearing to bring matters to the attention of the clerk to the justices. If that were done, it should normally be done in writing with notice to the other party.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when allowing an application by Mrs Heather Sticks and Ms Emma Sticks for judicial review of a decision of Sittingbourne Justices on July 4, 1995 to set down their case for retrial before a different bench following a change of decision concerning the admissibility of prosecution evidence. The justices were prohibited from conducting a fresh trial and not guilty verdicts were entered.

During the course of the trial the justices, after advice from the clerk in court who had conferred with a senior colleague, ruled certain prosecution evidence inadmissible. The case was adjourned at the close of the prosecution case.

Subsequently the branch prosecutor, who took the view that the advice had been wrong in law, telephoned the clerk to the justices to voice his concerns. The clerk to the justices spoke to the clerk who had been in court and then himself appeared in court on the day of the adjourned hearing.

The justices on his advice changed their ruling on admissibility. The defence was only told of the communication between prosecutor and clerk that morning. Defence counsel challenged the procedure as improper. The case

was set down for retrial before a different bench.

Mr Mark Phelps for the applicants; Mr David Walden-Smith for the prosecution; the justices did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that the Divisional Court was asked to intervene to prevent a retrial because the procedure followed not only gave an appearance of unfairness but was in fact unfair.

His Lordship did not consider acceptable an order directing the justices to continue with the first trial on the basis that a ruling on admissibility had already been given.

Not only had there been a substantial passage of time such that it would be difficult to convene the bench and for the justices to pick up the threads, further continuation of a trial in the circumstances on the basis of wrong legal advice was not an attractive one.

Mr Phelps had submitted alternatively that a prohibition was called for in respect of a fresh trial. It was not just to subject the applicants to a fresh trial when there had been a reversal of legal advice as to the admissibility of evidence.

Mr Walden-Smith had countered that had the first trial continued and the applicant been acquitted, the prosecution would have asked the justices to state a case for the Divisional Court, and having been satisfied that the ruling as to admissibility was wrong, that court would have directed a retrial.

His Lordship could not accept that that assumption a retrial would have been ordered. There were matters of fact still to be resolved at trial and therefore there might have been more than one reason for acquittal.

Would the justices have acquitted merely because of the absence of excluded evidence was a matter of speculation. The Divisional Court did not routinely order a retrial on the basis that one single point of admissibility of evidence

considered on the evidence and information before it that the true motive of the application is based upon the desire to achieve nationality and the right of abode rather than the general welfare of the minor then an adoption order should not be made.

"In every case it is a matter of balancing welfare against public policy, and the wider implications of the public policy aspect the less weight may be attached to the aspect of the welfare of the particular individual."

Miss Giovannetti's essential submission was that in all those cases the court had balanced the motive to achieve nationality against the motive to promote the welfare of the child. A breach of immigration regulations or policy could only be outweighed by the promotion of the welfare of the child and not by any other consideration. She submitted that the applicants were not seeking to promote the welfare of the child but to resolve the personal tragedy of infertility. His Lordship found her submissions unconvincing.

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Public policy immunity for fire brigades

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Great Britain) v Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority
Before Judge William Crawford, QC
[Judgment February 23]

It was neither fair, just nor reasonable and it would be contrary to public policy to impose a duty of care to the owner of burning property on a fire service which it was alleged had failed to take reasonable measures to ensure the provision of an adequate supply of water at the scene of a fire.

Judge William Crawford, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge in the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a judgment delivered in open court after a hearing in chambers, allowing an application by West Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority to strike out a claim for breach of statutory duty and/or negligence brought by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Great Britain) following the destruction

by fire of its chapel in Huddersfield.

Mr Bruce Speller for the plaintiff; Mr Colin MacKay, QC and Mr Jonathan Bellamy for the defendant.

HIS LORDSHIP said that on the night of October 22, 1992 a fire had been spotted in a classroom attached to the chapel and fire engines had been called. It was alleged that it was not until some time after they arrived that they were able to fight the fire efficiently owing to the absence of a proper supply of water.

Of the seven fire hydrants around the chapel, four failed to work and the other three were never found, or found so late as to be of little use. In the end, water had to be obtained from a mill dam over half a mile away. As a result, the plaintiff said, a fire which might have been contained to the classroom had destroyed the entire chapel as well.

The plaintiff had alleged breach of duty in that the hydrants had not been regularly inspected; defects had not been observed or repaired and one hydrant had

been allowed to become hidden by vegetation.

His Lordship reviewed the relevant legislation, and observed that the statutory duties imposed on the defendant by the Fire Services Act 1947 were not such as to confer a private right of action on the plaintiff.

At common law the damage to the plaintiff was clearly foreseeable and there was a sufficiently proximate relationship between the parties to found a cause of action. But applying the principle in *Caparo v Dickman* [1990] AC 413 it was not fair, just and reasonable to superimpose on the statutory framework a common law duty of care.

There was no just reason why the authority should be subject to claims and liabilities which might impede the performance of its statutory duties. The courts had consistently in analogous cases refused to find that the authority owed an individual a duty at common law founding in damages.

Except where they themselves had created the danger, claims in

negligence against the police had generally been barred on the ground of public policy. The court had been found to enjoy a similar immunity.

The fire service was an emergency service in a truer sense than the police; to permit such claims to be made against it would impose a new burden which would be detrimental to the service and a distraction from its proper task of fighting fires.

It would create the possibility of massive financial claims which had never before been contemplated and which would be an unreasonable burden on the taxpayer. It was for the individual to insure his property against fire; it was not for the community to do so for him.

His Lordship was satisfied that it would be contrary to the public interest that the fire service should be open to claims based on negligence in respect of its fire fighting, which encompassed the provision of water, and rescue operations.

Solicitors: Devonshires; Davies Arnold Cooper.

Juries do not apply mathematical formulae

Regina v Adams
Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Hadden and Mr Justice Buxton
[Judgment April 26]

Evidence of the Bayes Theorem or any similar statistical method of analysis in a criminal trial plunged the jury into inappropriate and unnecessary realms of theory and complexity deflecting them from their proper task.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal

Division, so held in a reserved judgment when allowing an appeal against conviction at the Central Criminal Court Judge Gordon and a jury on January 24, 1995 and ordering a retrial for rape of Denis John Adams. He had been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

Mr Ronald Thwaites, QC, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Miss Susan Tapping for the

prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the prosecution case rested entirely on expert evidence in relation to the DNA profile obtained from semen on a high vaginal swab taken from the complainant.

At trial, the defence were permitted to lead evidence of the Bayes Theorem in connection with the statistical evaluation of the DNA profile.

Although their Lordships expressed no concluded view on the matter, they had very grave doubts as to whether that evidence was properly admissible, because it trespassed on an area peculiarly and exclusively within the province, namely the way in which they evaluated the relationship between one piece of evidence and another.

The Bayes Theorem might be an appropriate and useful tool for statisticians, but it was inappropriate for use in jury trials or as a means to assist the jury in their task. In the first place, the theorem's methodology required that items of evidence be assessed

separately according to their bearing on the guilt of the accused, before being combined in the overall formula.

That in their Lordships' view was too rigid an approach to evidence of the nature which a jury characteristically had to assess.

More fundamentally, the attempt to determine guilt or innocence on the basis of a mathematical formula, applied to each separate piece of evidence, was simply inappropriate to the jury's task. Jurors evaluated evidence and reached conclusions not by means of a formula, mathematical or otherwise, but by the joint application of their individual common sense and knowledge of the world to the evidence before them.

It was common for juries to evaluate scientific evidence and their Lordships had never heard it suggested that a jury should be told of the relationship between such scientific evidence and other evidence by reference to probability formulae.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, St Albans.

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FILM 1

Mr Holland's Opus presents Richard Dreyfuss in a wishful vision of small-town America



FILM 2

The usual thrills and spills at 30,000ft, as a jumbo gets hijacked in **Executive Decision**

THE TIMES
ARTS



FILM 3

... while drama and mayhem on the high seas provide Ridley Scott's **White Squall** with its climax



FILM 4

... and gay culture is explored in **Stonewall**, Nigel Finch's colourful treatment of the 1969 New York riots

CINEMA: Geoff Brown sees Richard Dreyfuss join the decomposing composers society in **Mr Holland's Opus**

Music the food of indigestion

Our first inkling that reality will be taking a back seat during **Mr Holland's Opus** occurs when Richard Dreyfuss's high school music teacher blithely arrives for his first day at work without any knowledge of classes or courses. He comes into it cold, like a new pupil.

He then starts gently, testing his class's orchestral skills on something easy — Beethoven's Fifth.

The very appearance of Dreyfuss gets one gulping, for his make-up man, Ken Chase by name, has whisked him back to his younger self, to allow him to age into greyness by the time the movie ends. We could all do with hiring Chase.

The movie's span is some 30 years. Popular milestones and shifts in fashion are duly noted. Flower power rules. Vietnam burns. John Lennon gets shot. But **Mr Holland's Opus**, directed by Stephen Herek, really takes place out of time, in that fuzzy, benign world that Frank Capra liked to live in: a clean, small-town world that has no place for drugs or violence, loves to watch a marching band, and knows what "opus" means.

Sentimental to an impossible degree, this movie much trades heavily on the appeal of an America that few urban Americans may recognise outside their dreams.

Patrick Sheane Duncan's slackly built script establishes Dreyfuss as a frustrated composer sidetracked into teaching. When Beethoven fails, he follows the Michelle Pfeiffer method in *Dangerous Minds* and goes pop, grabbing the kids' attention with rock'n'roll. After hours he works on his magnum opus, *An American*

Mr Holland's Opus

Odeon Leicester Square PG, 143 mins
Thirty years with Richard Dreyfuss, music teacher

Executive Decision

Warner West End 15, 133 mins
Silly fun on a hijacked airliner

White Squall

Odeon West End 12, 128 mins
Water-logged drama with a splendid storm

Stonewall

MGM Shaftesbury Ave 15, 98 mins
Wayward recreation of the Stonewall riots

Symphony; but the hours get less as the script's clichés grow. A son is born and found to be deaf. An affair with a pupil takes a few steps before the girl's brilliant voice transports her to New York City. When the music department faces the axe, Dreyfuss feels his life's work is unachieved. But the school rallies round with a smile: "We are your symphony, Mr Holland, we are your opus". His symphony is then performed, a ghostly sub-Gershwin flourish by Michael Kamen lasting all of five minutes.

Dreyfuss attacks his part with gusto, whether waving his arms before an orchestra or singing John Lennon's *Beautiful Boy*. The fireworks display earned him a Best Actor Oscar nomination, but you cannot construct a solid

character from soap bubbles. As for Herek, the supine director, he might think this marshmallow marks a step toward maturity after brash youth movies such as *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*. But it's only an illusion.

Executive Decision is at least honest about peddling hokum. Producer Joel Silver has his standards. No opus for him: just bombs, guys and gals exploding on cue every few minutes. The setting for his latest action extravaganza is pleasantly familiar: a hijacked jumbo jet, bound for Washington DC. Those on board include plucky stewardess Halle Berry (Karen Black's role in *Airport '75*), David Suchet's Islamic terrorist, whose want list includes \$50 million in gold bullion, and an American Senator in a terrible toupee (J.T. Walsh).

The drama, though, comes from the anti-terrorist team that arrives by stealth plane and creeps into the aircraft's hold. Kurt Russell, a think-tank professor, leads the motley crew crawling through the underbelly, watching their targets through micro-cameras, and trying to neutralise a lethal consignment of nerve gas. No other movie gives such a worm's eye view of an aircraft's innards.

Director Stuart Baird, a practised film editor making the jump to bigger things, strings out the suspense too thinly at times; but the script usually snaps back with a neat surprise, or some friendly old dialogue. Russell's bomb expert faints, then comes to just in time to say, "Whatever you do, don't cut that wire". Good, silly Saturday night fun.

Ridley Scott's *White Squall* has its moments too, although



"Trading on the appeal of an America that few urban Americans may recognise outside their dreams": Richard Dreyfuss in **Mr Holland's Opus**

you must wade through much rigmarole to reach them. The time is 1960, and the story is true. Jeff Bridges takes the lead as the fearsome boss of the *Albatross*, a schooner that offers teenage boys an eight-month, character-building voyage from Bermuda to the Galapagos Islands and back. He is called the Skipper and he takes no nonsense. He lectures the boys with that stern, mouth-full-of-marbles look: "You know what's out there. Wind and rain and some damn big waves."

At first, though, what's out there is the usual dribble of rites of passage, and youth chafing against authority. A lad with a phobia for heights is

forced up the mast and wets his pants. Dutch students drop by for sexual adventures. This is piffing stuff, especially from the director of *Blade Runner*.

Then come the big waves and a whirlwind of water, the "white squall" itself. Now we know why the story caught Scott's eye: he wanted to sweep audiences away with the panic, the chaos and the Dolby digital sound of a schooner capsizing. Through a porthole, Bridges watches helplessly as his wife (Caroline Goodall) drowns. There are five other victims of the sea's fury. As for us, we emerge from the sequence severely shaken and drenched to the skin.

From this high point, the film has nowhere to go but, like the *Albatross*, itself, down. When the survivors reach land, the Skipper faces a Coast Guard tribunal, and the air suddenly fills with courtroom clichés. From millpond to squall to millpond: that is the voyage this movie takes. But the squall itself is magnificent.

Nigel Finch's *Stonewall*, a colourful treatment of the week leading up to the 1969 Stonewall riots, has its own share of problems. When we hear the word riot, Hollywood and the television news have led us to expect mob warfare and police brutality on an epic scale. But what do we get in *Stonewall*? A thin line of drag

queens in Greenwich Village, raising their fists and shaking their wigs at a thin line-up of mocking police. After building up to the grand confrontation, the film goes limp just when it needs to stand tall.

Maybe producer Christine Vachon's modest budget could not run to a convincing riot: the Greenwich Village film recreates in New York always seems underpopulated. Or perhaps the "feel-good" factor intervened. Though inspired by Martin Duberman's book of history, *Stonewall* spins off into fiction right from the start, and splatters its scenes with camp musical numbers, drag queen bitchery, gay culture as knockabout fun.

True, the carnival also includes some tender moments, and sociological footnotes about gay repression. We observe the conflict between the militant hero (Frederick Well) and an activist from the Mattachine Society, whose approach is softly-softer. But the impression persists of a film skating too fast over powerful material, and a director not quite in control.

Finch, co-editor of BBC2's *Arena* programme for many years, died of an AIDS-related disease in February 1995, when *Stonewall* was in post-production. For his sake, and the sake of the subject, I wish this had been a better memorial.

Testament to one man's will

The late Nigel Finch's film *Stonewall* comes at an interesting time for the gay movie. Hollywood, flush with the success of *Philadelphia*, continues to court the mainstream, casting heterosexual stars in gay roles — with mixed results. Patrick Swayze and Wesley Snipes flopped dramatically in *To Wong Foo*, while *The Birdcage*, despite criticisms of stereotyping and sentimental political correctness, has proved to be a crowd-pleaser.

Meanwhile, low-budget independent American films such as *Swoon* and *Jeffrey*, appealing primarily to a gay audience and ranging in style and quality, continue to proliferate.

Stonewall, along with another forthcoming British film, *Beautiful Thing*, based on Jonathan Harvey's hit play, occupies a middle ground. Both have the universal appeal of being love stories, but whereas Harvey's tale focuses on the innocence of teenage first love and is firmly rooted in the contemporary reality of a London council estate, Finch's piece tackles the far more ambiguous subject of love among the drag queens of Greenwich Village in 1969.

The knowledge that he was dying drove Nigel Finch to complete *Stonewall*. Carol Allen reports



Finch: "He wanted to make an entertaining film"

"It was the perfect vehicle for Nigel to exercise his style, be as flashy as he liked," says his close friend and co-producer, Anthony Wall. "It's full of ironic humour, while at the same time saying something about the humanity of society's outsiders."

Philadelphia found a new mainstream audience for a gay story. Its writer, Ron Nyswaner, said that if the movie had played "only to people who thought just like we do, we would have done nothing very significant". Did Finch and Wall have a similar aim with *Stonewall*?

"Nigel hoped it would have a general audience, but he didn't see it in a pioneering way," Wall says. "He wanted to make an entertaining film. Two of his favourite films were *Performance* and *The Servant*, both of which have the same sort of ambiguity and sense of a world with its own set of rules that we aimed for in *Stonewall*."

Wall and Finch were close friends for 16 years. For 11 of those, until Finch's death early last year, they were joint editors of BBC2's *Arena* and were largely responsible for creating its oblique approach to contemporary culture through such films as *My Way* and *The Private Life of the*

Ford Cortina. Financed from BBC sources, *Stonewall* is *Arena*'s first venture into the actual feature film-making. The programme is also involved in another American gay history project, the forthcoming *I Shot Andy Warhol*.

Making a feature film had long been Finch's ambition. Although *Stonewall*'s story predates the AIDS threat, Finch's own HIV-positive condition made him aware that time could be short for him to fulfil his dream, particularly after the death two years ago of his partner, Rupert Haselden, to whom the film is dedicated.

"Obviously that had a profound effect on Nigel," Wall says. "His determination to get this thing done was absolute. He felt that if he didn't do *Stonewall* when he did [in the autumn of 1994] he might not be strong enough later, or even alive."

"He seemed healthy when we started filming, the best I'd seen him for a long time, but it was a very gruelling shoot: low-budget, labour-intensive and in cold conditions. He didn't get sick until the last few days, but was dead within nine weeks of the last shot he did."

'A total feel-good film'



Every week, young film fans discuss the new releases...

MR HOLLAND'S OPUS: ALICE BIRD, 18: This was a total feel-good film, but not straight-down-the-line corny. Richard Dreyfuss was all right, but not mind-boggling. **PATRICK BIRD,** 18: This sets the mood of the time really well, but I would have edited a lot out — it was so long.

MATT JONES, 23: Dreyfuss's performance was wonderful. The film is not subtle, but it cannot fail to move. **DAMIAN SAMUELS,** 23: A classic weepy American tale. Take tissues.

STONEWALL: ALICE: Well-acted and realistic, but I found the love scenes difficult to deal with. **MATT:** Slow-going at times and, despite a certain power, doesn't do justice to the *Stonewall* story. **PATRICK:** Very strange, but interesting from a historical point of view.

DAMIAN: A good balance of musical numbers by drag queens and harsh violent scenes. Although it can be slow, it is a very moving account.

EXECUTIVE DECISION: **DAMIAN:** A typical all-American action-thriller: a real nail-biter, although it does have its fair share of cheesy lines. **PATRICK:** Like many other English actors, David Suchet plays the villain, which I thought he did with great conviction.

ALICE: Predictable, but very entertaining. **MATT:** Big, brash, American fluff. Not cerebral but very fast-paced and fun. Leave your brain at home and just enjoy it.

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"Smart script, excellent performances and very funny. A stylish slice of entertainment that will keep you glued to your seat."

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IN THE WEST END NOW

WARNER WEST END LEICESTER SQUARE 143 mins PG	ODEON KENSINGTON 143 mins PG	ODEON SHOPS OUTLET 143 mins PG	MGM MAYFAIR 143 mins PG	MGM CHURCHILL 143 mins PG	UCI WHITEHALL 143 mins PG
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RADIO: Start times vary, but Radio 3's new service is worth waiting up for

As this column provided the first confirmation that Radio 3 was to broadcast through the night, I felt obliged to stay up and listen to the new service, which began at 1am on Sunday. The principal result is that the bags under my eyes are now large enough to make a trolley redundant at Sainsbury's.

One could argue that there is not much more to this all-night routine than an attempt to show that anything Classic FM can do Radio 3 can do too. Better? I suppose that is a question of taste.

Greats enliven the small hours

One trouble with *Through the Night* is that it isn't, or at least it isn't on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On those nights there is an interregnum for schools broadcasting. Worse, the schools broadcasts are of uneven length, so *Through the Night* starts at 1am on Tuesday and Thursday and 1.20am on Wednesday. On other nights the start is at 1am.

This is not exactly a recipe for packing 'em in, especially as Classic, being in the private sector, has no obligation to teach anything. People who think the BBC has an easy time of it ought to try drawing up a schedule armed with a

list of programmes in one hand and the BBC Charter in the other.

But *Through the Night* has already produced a hero. His name is Donald Macleod and he is the show's presenter. And he says: "I've been guided by the assumption that in the middle of the night what listeners want to hear is the music rather than someone talking about the music, so I'll simply tell you what you are going to hear."

Nearly all presenters say that before shows start: I would not be surprised if Chris Evans said it once, only at greater length. What makes Macleod a hero is that he actually means it. He is

some kind of radio throw-back, a presenter who thinks the music is more important than him. How quaint.

Thus *Through the Night* this week has brought us composers including Beethoven (third and fourth piano concertos) and the Mozart Requiem in D. Around 3.15am there is a slot for early music, which has included secular songs by Lassus and madrigals by Monteverdi. At least, the schedules said so: even I have a prior engagement at 3.15am.

So who exactly is listening? A man and his dog (possibly the HMV dog). And who cares? Please, spare us audience research, for I take the view that if unteamed FM stations can pump out Oasis all night, there is surely a role for something decent in the wee small hours.

PETER BARNARD



THEATRE 1
Felicity Kendal is the most appealing character on stage in Peter Hall's new production of *Mind Millie for Me*



THEATRE 2
After a long national tour, Max Stafford-Clark's production of *Three Sisters* reaches London

THE TIMES ARTS



DANCE 1
With his staging of *Carmen*, Antonio Gades proves that flamenco does have a future



DANCE 2
... and Christopher Dean leaves his skates behind as he choreographs his first ballet for ENB

THEATRE: Chekhov weakened after months on the road, but Feydeau bares his teeth in a new adaptation

Gone with the whinge

In Max Stafford-Clark's production of *Out of Joint*, in London after its six-month national and Indian tour, the Prozorov women have seldom seemed such ninnyes. Their over-refinement, in a coarse world they cannot bring themselves to confront, is the nature of the predicament Chekhov places them in, but we are familiar with interpretations that suggest the faults lie in their stars. Stafford-Clark makes us feel that they permit themselves to grow bloated in their provincial backwater.

Throughout the play, which is spread over a longer stretch of time than any other that Chekhov wrote, forks appear in the action. Not the dining accessory left out in the garden in Act IV, which sets the dreadful Natasha off on one of her rages, but openings for an alternative life.

Catherine Russell's Masha throws herself into such an opening with Vershinin (Nigel Terry), although it happens to lead her into a dead end; the others do so little to extricate themselves from fatigue or ennui that I longed to jump up and cry: "Look, what stops you selling up and rushing back to this Moscow you're so keen on?"

This is not a production that allows the audience to sit back and allow a sense of the sadness of things to flow gently over it. In an odd sort of way there are touches of what, in an earlier age, would have been called agitprop: watch this and do otherwise. But,

that said, there are also areas in certain performances that emphasise the ninnyish more than Chekhov must have intended. Olga's first speech, reminding her sisters that their father was a general and died a year ago this very day, is Chekhov's feeblest opening, but Dinah Stabb rattles through it and Stafford-Clark finds no way to make her remarks seem likely.

Kate Ashfield's Irina is called in her first scene, reasonably enough as the baby of the house, but in Act III, years later, the same tones persist. She is crosser but no wiser. Perhaps this is Stafford-Clark imposing limitation on her growth, but it comes across as a shortcoming of performance.

Three Sisters
Lyric, W6

In complicity with the sisters, their equivalents among the men become boobies: Terry emphasises the hollowiness of Vershinin; likewise Barnaby Kay with Tuzenbach, although he is often comically famous. Among the evil-doers, Lloyd Hutchinson's Solonyi, watching his rival through the windows, forever lurking, is a strong nihilist force.

The production alters the end by reintroducing the spinning-top that brought a moment of serious sorrow into Act I. As it dies, all the characters reappear, even the dead baron, and stare out at us, as if through glass: doomed incompetents, who philosophised (some of them) about the future, but found no way to create it.

JEREMY KINGSTON
MARILYN KINGSTON



Dinah Stabb, Catherine Russell and Kate Ashfield let life pass them by as Chekhov's rather drippy *Three Sisters*



The wedding scene in *Mind Millie for Me*, the English version of Feydeau's farce played for laughs and bitter truths in Peter Hall's production

Gags with a chokehold

This is by a dramatist whose "every character is an animal alone in the bourgeois jungle, isolated by selfishness and turning predator to survive". Far from them dispensing as they thrash around in *extremis*, their words are "a means to hold desperation at bay and hide insecurities, for every person is sooner or later in a terrible crisis and their only way out is a fever of words".

Who is Peter Hall talking about in his programme note? O'Neill or Williams? Early Pinter or mid-period Euripides? No, the answer is a famous farceur. Hall has collaborated with Nicki Frei on an adaptation of Feydeau's *Occupé d'Amélie* and, helped by Gerald Scarle's grotesque sets and monster wigs, given the play a revival that does not try to render the charming or the French costly Anglo-Saxon.

I found the evening funny, sometimes very funny, occasionally hilarious: but I saw why most of the first-

night audience were not indulging in those curious acrobatics known as rolling in the aisles. After all, the laws of farce decree that laughter comes when staid characters are in danger of being shocked or conventional ones are plunged into morally threatening situations. A bishop looks funnier than a prostitute if forced to hide in a cupboard, and funnier still if he is ignominiously escaping a respectable husband, not some tolerant dandy.

But all the major characters here scorn bourgeois values, and some of them are pretty nasty people. Imagine a farce involving coke-sporting Sloanes and promiscuous Henriettes in SW1, and you have not only the modern equivalent of *Mind Millie* but an indication of the problems facing a modern director and his audience.

Felicity Kendal's Millie, a sprightly sort content to confess herself a "tart", is the most appealing character on-

Mind Millie for Me
Theatre Royal, Haymarket

stage. But she lives in a world where it is more acceptable for people to betray their spouses than their current lovers. So when Nicholas le Prevost's Etienne leaves Millie in the charge of his best friend, Neil Pearson's Marcel, he does not expect the two of them to fall drunkenly into bed; and, when they do, he determines on revenge. The fact that Marcel will inherit a fortune on his marriage gives him his chance. He organises a fake wedding between confirmed bachelor Marcel and cheery slut Millie, and then ensures it is real.

As always with Feydeau, there are complications galore. Peter Blythe's subtly vain Prince of Palestria pursues Millie, ending with his trousers flung from the window and (an overboard touch, maybe) his body festooned in vast orange long Johns. John Fraser podgily appears with green bowler, matching plus-fours and

a frizz of ginger hair as the Dutch uncle responsible for giving Marcel his inheritance.

It all culminates with wild recriminations in the exotic bedroom (frilly drapes, statue of Zeus as swan) Scarle has designed for Millie; but not before a scene in a weird green registry office in which her louché hangers-on slyly congratulate the stout parry they believe to be an actor, but really is the local mayor, on conducting so credible a ceremony.

It is harum-scarum stuff, played with huge zest by a cast that also includes Carmen du Sautoy as a lascivious countess and Robert Lang as Millie's corrupt-copper father. At times you could call it cruel, even brutal, but never soft, never sentimental. Does it sound absurd to say that only those with tough hides will enjoy a farce written as long ago as 1908, and that even they may not laugh a lot? Probably; but that's Feydeau for you.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Subtle Lee: it's heads he wins

THE criticism most frequently levelled at alto player Lee Konitz is that his music appeals so strongly to the heads of his listeners that it can miss their hearts altogether.

Konitz's front-line partner for his week's residency at Ronnie Scott's, Canadian-born trumpeter Kenny Wheeler, is also no stranger to this sort of criticism. Self-effacing to a fault, he depends, like Konitz, on long, delicately spun lines of improvisation and on the affecting plangency of his tone to make an impression, rather than on overt passion betokened by a sweating brow.

It was therefore a fair bet that Konitz and Wheeler — backed by the local-ish rhythm section of guitarist John Partridge, bassist Mick Hutton and drummer Stephen Keogh — would not turn in a jazz at the Philharmonic-type grandstanding performance culminating in crowd-pleasing chorus after chorus of Lester Leaps In.

Controlled, considered music, often with punning titles — Konitz's 1979 reworking of his famous nine-piece *Birth of the Cool* material came out under the title *Yes Yes No* — is both men's hallmark, and that is exactly what they provided in a well-paced set consisting mainly of

Lee Konitz
Ronnie Scott's

thoughtful originals interspersed with the odd standard.

Much has been made of Konitz's importance in the early 1950s as a pioneering dispenser — with his mentor, pianist Lennie Tristano — of a cooler, less flashily frenetic alternative to bebop, and the 68-year-old alto's own compositions, particularly his nearly five-decades-old set-closer, *Subconscious Lee*, neatly illustrated just how he has attained this reputation.

From a relatively familiar starting-point — usually either a blues or the chord sequence of a standard — he and Wheeler crafted fragile, deceptively languid-sounding improvisations whose effect depended not on the fire and virtuosity bluster of bebop but rather on subtle melodic inventiveness and nuances of tone and timbre. Such being the band's strengths, neither Konitz's choice of standard — a subdued, gently loping *What's New* — nor his decision to include Billy Strayhorn's quintessential Johnny Hodges ballad feature, *A Flower is a Lovesome Thing*, was a great surprise. Unusually, though, instead of simply bathing in the considerable glow of the latter's ravishingly lovely tune, both Konitz and Wheeler used it as a vehicle for almost wilfully cerebral exploration.

If such intensity sounds a little austere, however, the singer Claire Martin, whose spiky but sophisticated performances are always a delight, is appearing opposite Konitz, and her infectious vitality neatly complements his more introspective approach.

CHRIS PARKER

DANCE: A world first for the ice skater Christopher Dean; plus, a brilliant flamenco *Carmen*

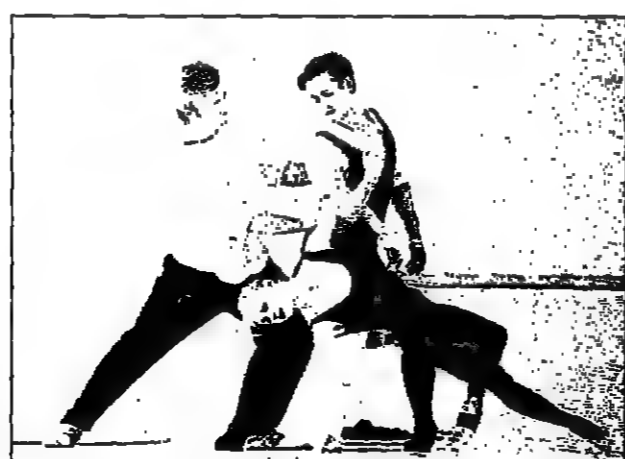
So who needs skates?

The other half of Torvill and Dean made his debut as a ballet choreographer in Cambridge on Tuesday night. There wasn't a blade in sight, although Jayne Torvill did make a personal appearance, much to the delight of the audience at the Corn Exchange who queued for her autograph. Torvill and Dean are still a magic combination as far as the British public is concerned, but what did Christopher Dean think he was doing when he decided to exchange figure skates for pointe shoes?

Making more magic, as it turned out, Dean's impeccable sense of what makes popular theatre proved as astute on the ballet stage as it has for the past 20 years on the ice rink. His new *Encounters* for English National Ballet is a beautifully packaged piece of work, with an interesting premise cleverly realised and lots of good choreography that was superbly danced on opening night. It deserves to be the hit it will undoubtedly become.

The piece is set to six songs by Paul Simon — pop music goes down a treat with ballet audiences — and is loosely based on Dean's own life. That life, as revealed in *Encounters*, has been defined by women: his mother, stepmother, two wives and, of course, his famous ice dancing partner.

Thomas Edur moves through Dean's memory world, melancholic, ecstatic, bemused and confused, part of it and apart from it at the same time. The soundtrack sets the



Christopher Dean with Agnes Oaks and Thomas Edur

English National Ballet
Corn Exchange, Cambridge

tone for each encounter: *Mother and Child Reunion* is particularly tender. *Still Crazy After All These Years* is an affectionate celebration of Dean's enduring triumph with Torvill: *50 Ways to Leave Your Lover* is a feisty number remembering his stormy marriage to the French skater Isabelle Duchesnay.

Dean's choreography flows with all the momentum of skating: positions are not used to punctuate the dance, but glide seamlessly through smooth movement phrases. Some of the basics in a skater's vocabulary are overused — there are too many pirouettes, for instance — but the fluidity of the writing ensures that the dancers look incredibly unrestrained. And where the allusions to skating are intentional, as in the lifts in the pas de deux with the Torvill character, they are neatly incorporated into a classical context.

DEBRA CRAINE

Undying passion

Together with Carlos Saura, the film-maker, Antonio Gades proves that flamenco has a future. If you liked the 1983 Gades-Saura *Carmen* on film, then rush to see their version on stage.

As in the film, Gades and Saura give *Carmen* a contemporary edge by threading a modern parallel narrative through it. The curtain rises on the Compania Antonio Gades working in a studio, but soon the divisions become blurred. Are we watching a rehearsal of *Carmen* or a real story? Is Juan Alba engaged in a costume fitting for his role as he scrutinises himself in his *torero* uniform, or is he actually the *torero*, soon to challenge Gades's Don José for *Carmen*'s affections?

Never mind that Spain's sexiest male star since El Cordobes now moves stiffly and sketchily and keeps his solos brief. Aged 59, but still tall and handsome, Gades returns to London after an absence of more than 20 years.

His own dancing emphasises arms and poses; but this restriction slots in smoothly with an overall choreography that makes you realise flamenco can be what it wants. It can be boldly and modernly minimalist, as in a gestural solo for Juan Alba, hands grasping and pulling the air. It can paint mood and character, as it does with the furious footbeats or smokily seductive torso of Stella Arauzo, a wonderful *Carmen*, her dress like a splash of scarlet. It can ingeniously adapt tradition as it does with the *bastones*, sticks normally used as percussive accompaniments in certain dances, which it transforms into duelling weapons for Gades and

Compania Antonio Gades
Sadler's Wells

Candy Roman as *Carmen*'s husband.

Carmen cracks the two tricky problems of flamenco: how to update it, and how to adapt it to storytelling without falling into cliché and histrionics. With great skill, Gades and Saura achieve drama of the highest order. The studio setting becomes a crucible in which dance, taped extracts from the opera, live singing and guitar fuse.

Heart-stopping moments will remain forever in my memory: the long moments of stillness, for example, when Gades's Don José hangs his head in shame at his punishment, his image multiplied by the studio mirrors behind; his rejection by *Carmen*, watched with bated breath by a semi-circle of onlookers who break into vicious cheers.

Above all I will remember the wonderful mix of old and young performers in the solo turns of the *Buleria* section, all as high-spirited and real as contemporary Andalusians in some village celebration. In innovating flamenco, Gades does not forget its roots.

NADINE MEISNER

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

LONDON
Regent's Park
Open Air Theatre
● *SUMMER* is on in, and Theatre Club members are getting set for Shakespeare in the park: top-price seats, a free programme and a picnic of smoked salmon sandwiches, strawberries and cream and a quartet of champagne for only £21 per person. Choices from: *The Comedy of Errors* (May 24-30, June 3-4), *Starring Paula Wilcox as Adriana, The Tempest* (June 17-19), *Starring Denis Quilley as Prospero*. Tel 0171-480 2431/1933 (Mon to Sat, 10am to 6pm) to book

BRIGHTON
The Dome
May 9
● *TCHAIKOVSKY'S* opera *The Enchantress* has its British stage premiere 109 years after it was written — and Theatre Club members can be there on the first night. Two tickets (£18.50 or £22.50) for the price of one. Tel 01273 707070

NEWBURY
Watermill Theatre
May 14-June 8
● *MICHAEL PENNINGTON* plays Archie Rice in John Osborne's *The Entertainer*. Tickets £7.20 (normally £10.99) for weekday performances and £8.75 (normally £13.99) on Fri and Sat. Tel 01635 46044

HULL
New Theatre
May 20
● *GERRY MARSDEN*, lead singer with Gerry and the Pacemakers, takes a journey through a magical time in *Ferry Cross the Mersey*. Two tickets for the price of one (normally

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

£16.50 for the first night. The first three callers will be able to meet the cast after the show. Tel 01482 226655

CARDIFF
New Theatre
May 14, 15
● *DONALD SINDEN* stars in *That Good Night*, a new drama by N.J. Crisp. Best stalls seats £6 (normally £10, £12.50). Tel 01222 878889

MOLD
Theatre Cymru
May 28-31
● *BARRY FOSTER* stars in a stage version of the classic thriller, *Double Indemnity*. Two £11 tickets for the price of one. Tel 01352 755114

BREAK FOR THE BANK

May 27-31
● *BEST* seats for a West End show of your choice — *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *Jolson* among them — and overnight accommodation, with breakfast, at the four-star Grafton Hotel for just £69. Tel 0800 335888

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage.
TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8LL, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

Wigmore Hall Friday 10 May 7.30pm
GUILDHALL STRING ENSEMBLE
ROBERT SALTER director **PIERS LANE** piano
MOZART: Piano Concerto in A, K414; Divertimento K138
DVORAK: Two Waltzes; FINZI: Romance Op.11
BEETHOVEN, arr. MAHLER: String Quartet in F minor Op.95
£15.00, £12.50, £10.00, £7.50
Concessions available Box Office/CC 0171 935 2141

Penelope Lively on A. S. Byatt's bold return to the Happenings and happenings of the Sixties, when language and life were inextricably entwined

Truth in many tongues

AT ONE point in this capacious novel, Frederica, the central figure, tries a Burroughs experiment in cutting up prose. She cuts up a letter from her husband's lawyer about their impending divorce, a passage from E. M. Forster, a passage from D. H. Lawrence, and contemplates the resulting kaleidoscope of words. This is the Sixties, when the use and function of language were being redefined. Cut-ups produce gobbledygook, but they also make a garbled point. *Babel Tower* — as prose, as fiction — leaves the reader with the heady feeling of having met a rational, intelligent cut-up.

You feel that you have read several books — not randomly jumbled but skilfully interwoven. Moreover, the emphasis, the flavour, will shift according to the reader's response. You may feel that you have read a commentary on the values of the Sixties, or an allegory about the nature of evil, or a discussion of the use of language, or a discourse about snails and evolution — each with asides about environmental de-

struction, the nature of childhood and commentaries on some of the central literature of the century. The novel's 600 pages include all of the above. And they tell a story — or rather, part of a story, since this is the third volume of a planned quartet. The characters of *The Virgin in the Garden* and *Still Life* are back, along with a whole lot of new ones, supplying by the end an esoteric cast of dozens.

The roman fleuve is a courageous undertaking. One of the intriguing aspects is the shift in authorial approach, richly demonstrated here. This is a very different book from *The Virgin in the Garden* — the house style is immediately recognisable but it has mutated into something even more expansive, more discursive. There is a further and fuller

BABEL TOWER
By A. S. Byatt
Chatto & Windus, £16.99

development of the concept of the book within the narrative. *Babel Tower* is above all a book about books, an expression of intertextuality, a novel about language. Through the contemporary story runs another — an elaborate and increasingly horrific fantasy. For much of the book its purpose is mysterious. Indeed, there can be a jolt of irritation when it reappears, breaking into the more immediate matter of Frederica, her life and her associates. The inset narrative grows more and more disturbing and eventually



Byatt: courageous writing

breaks out for what it is — another book. *Babel Tower*, a tale for the children of our time, written by a manic and deeply Sixties character called Jude Mason and read by Frederica in the course of her work

as a sifter of the slush pile for a publisher.

Babel Tower is published and duly prosecuted for obscenity, according to the spirit of the times, thus taking us into the final and crucial part of *Babel Tower*, in which a word for word account of the trial follows immediately on an equally precise account of Frederica's grilling by lawyers in her divorce hearing.

The obscenity trial is the culmination of the novel's minute examination of *Stakes mores*. Those of us who were around and sentient at the time will shudder (or not, as the case may be) at its evocation of that period's excesses: the abuse of language, the denial of meaning. The novel ends with a superbly realised Happening. Those for whom a Happening is a historical concept can start here:

this is pretty much how it was. heaven help us.

Antonia Byatt's fiction has always been generously furnished. *The Virgin in the Garden* supplies the interior decor of a Fifties lower middle-class home in such evocative detail that you can feel the texture of the uncut moquette. In *Babel Tower*, the accessories of Sixties living — the clothes, the food, the fashionable reading — are as minutely catalogued. Social historians of the future will sing hymns of gratitude. The dinner party repertoire of the Elizabeth David reading classes, the structure of a Courtesan's dress — it is all here. Plus digressions into the ways of making a daisy chain or reflections on a painting or a text.

This is compendious writing, and may not be to all tastes. But decor, dresses and daisy chains

are ancillary — and good fun to my mind. What is central to the novel is far more important, and that is the discussion of language. And if this by necessity forges away from the narrative into meditations and arguments and descriptions, then so be it. These are what language is for.

THE SECTION in which Alexander — the charismatic playwright of *The Virgin in the Garden* — becomes a member of a government-appointed committee inquiring into the teaching of English (echoing the author's own experience) is an unashamed diversion. For me, the discussion and the inherent comment made absorbing reading. Others will no doubt be more seized by the elaborate and profoundly horrifying Sadeian narrative within the narrative — the *Babel Tower* novel. *Babel Tower* is a big, bold book and a dimension of its success is this very profligacy — it does indeed speak with many tongues and readers will hear as they choose, according to inclination.

Who was that masked playwright?

Anthony Holden

WHO WROTE SHAKESPEARE?
By John Michell
Thomas & Hudson, £16.95



The mysterious Shakespeare

Somewhere in the world, it is said, a book on Shakespeare is published every day — presumably including those such as this which suggest that all the others are wasting their time. There was no Elizabethan writer called William Shakespeare, or Shaxpere, or Shagsbur, or any of the other 75 contemporary spellings of his name. The works attributed to him were really written by Bacon or Marlowe, by the Earls of Oxford, Derby, Rutland, Essex or Southampton, by Sir Walter Raleigh, Cardinal Wolsey or even Queen Elizabeth I herself.

The Shakespeare canon contains too much wisdom, learning and expertise to have emerged from one mortal brain. Its vocabulary runs to some 20,000 words, as opposed to Milton's 8,000, or the 300-400 of the Stratford clod of the day. The expert legal, medical, military, naval, courtly, country, classical and floral themes throughout the work can only have been deployed by a trained lawyer, doctor, soldier, sailor, nobleman and/or scholar-gardener.

No contemporary document makes any clear reference to a leading playwright of the day named William Shakespeare. There is no reliable portrait, bust or signature. Anti-Stratfordians thus refuse to accept the cult of the "simple English countryman, deeply imbued with his native culture, who rose far above his educated contemporaries to set a literary standard which has never since been equalled". Far from penning his collected works, this Shakespeare may even have been unable to read or write.

Or, in the snug academic joke, the works of Shakespeare were written by another man of the same name. In his entertaining review of all other candidates, John Michell capitalises on this ambiguity by distinguishing William Shakespeare, the man to whom the plays are attributed, from Will Shakspeare, the Stratford rustic who may or may not have written them.

He opens with Mark Twain's mockery of Sir Sidney Lee for producing a 720-page life of a man who exists far more reliably in the popular imagination than in any public archive. Then follow such cases as that of the scholarly book entitled *Shakespeare the Boy*, about "a period of his life on which not a single fact is known". Characteristically, Michell merely notes this and moves on, with engagingly

ironic detachment, wearing his scholarship more lightly than many of those whose work he chronicles.

The cases for Bacon, Oxford, Marlowe and others are duly summarised, each in its way beguiling — not least Rutland's 1603 royal embassy to Denmark, which gave him a chance to check the view from the ramparts of Elsinore against the "high eastern hill" over which walks Hamlet's dawn in russet mantle clad.

There are a few omissions, such as the amply documented case for the son of Stratford acquiring his wisdom during a spell in the household of a Lancashire nobleman; and Bacon dies two years before becoming Lord Chancellor. But these are rare lapses in a useful survey of fiercely disputed territory. Having remained scrupulously impartial throughout, Michell finally compromises on a venal Shakespeare willing to let his name appear on texts produced by others, adding a few personal refinements spiced with a judicious dash of plagiarism. For all his formidable research, however, he and his ilk will never deter such fond fools as this reviewer, currently engaged on yet another biography of a man who may never have existed.

The plays the thing, all thirty-something of them, wherein this fugitive Elizabethan prodigy will forever catch the conscience of each passing generation. Those of us who can't resist peering behind the arras are merely come to praise Shakespeare, not to bury him.

Michael Arditti Pagan and Her Parents

'Required reading wherever the nuclear family is smallmindedly lauded as the one true ideal: a case of the unputdownable in pursuit of the unshakeable'

The Times



AVAILABLE FROM ALL BOOKSHOPS
PUBLISHED BY NINA ANDERSON

A millennial balancing act

Earth in peril:
Colin Tudge
wonders if the
end is
really nigh

Three cheery and eminently readable volumes to launch us into the 21st century — each telling us that we have startlingly little chance of getting through it. Time's up, the party's over, we've had our chips: an entire flock of emus-sized chickens has chosen this time to come home to roost. Taken all in all, this is not a good time to be young, or a good world to bring babies into.

As Joel Cohen records in *How Many People Can The Earth Support?* the Atrahasis epic of Babylon, from around 1600 BC, dwells on the creeping threat of overpopulation; and although we are still here, the creep is now a gallop. There are now almost six billion of us (6,000 million) — a milestone to be passed by about AD 2000. The percentage rate of growth has dropped from its peak in the 1960s but the absolute increase is faster than ever because numbers are greater.

If numbers continue to rise even at the present, apparently modest 1.6 per cent per year, then, because of compound interest, the world population would double within about 40 years. So it would reach 12 billion by 2040, 24 billion by 2080, 48 billion by 2120, and 96 billion by 2160. There are many people in the world who argue that every human birth brings joy to God; but few would be silly enough to believe that this already over-stretched world could support the 30 billion or so who would, if present trends continue, be with us by the end of the 21st century.

The poise is extremely delicate, and intriguingly Micawberish. Thus, if couples average ever so minutely fewer than two children, then populations must eventually fall. If couples average ever so slightly more than two, then populations rise; and even the tiniest growth produces massive increases within a few decades. But populations level out only when death rates increase or birth rates fall. Only the latter is acceptable; but when birth rates fall the population structure is skewed towards oldies, thus alarming bosses, trade unionists, and generals alike.

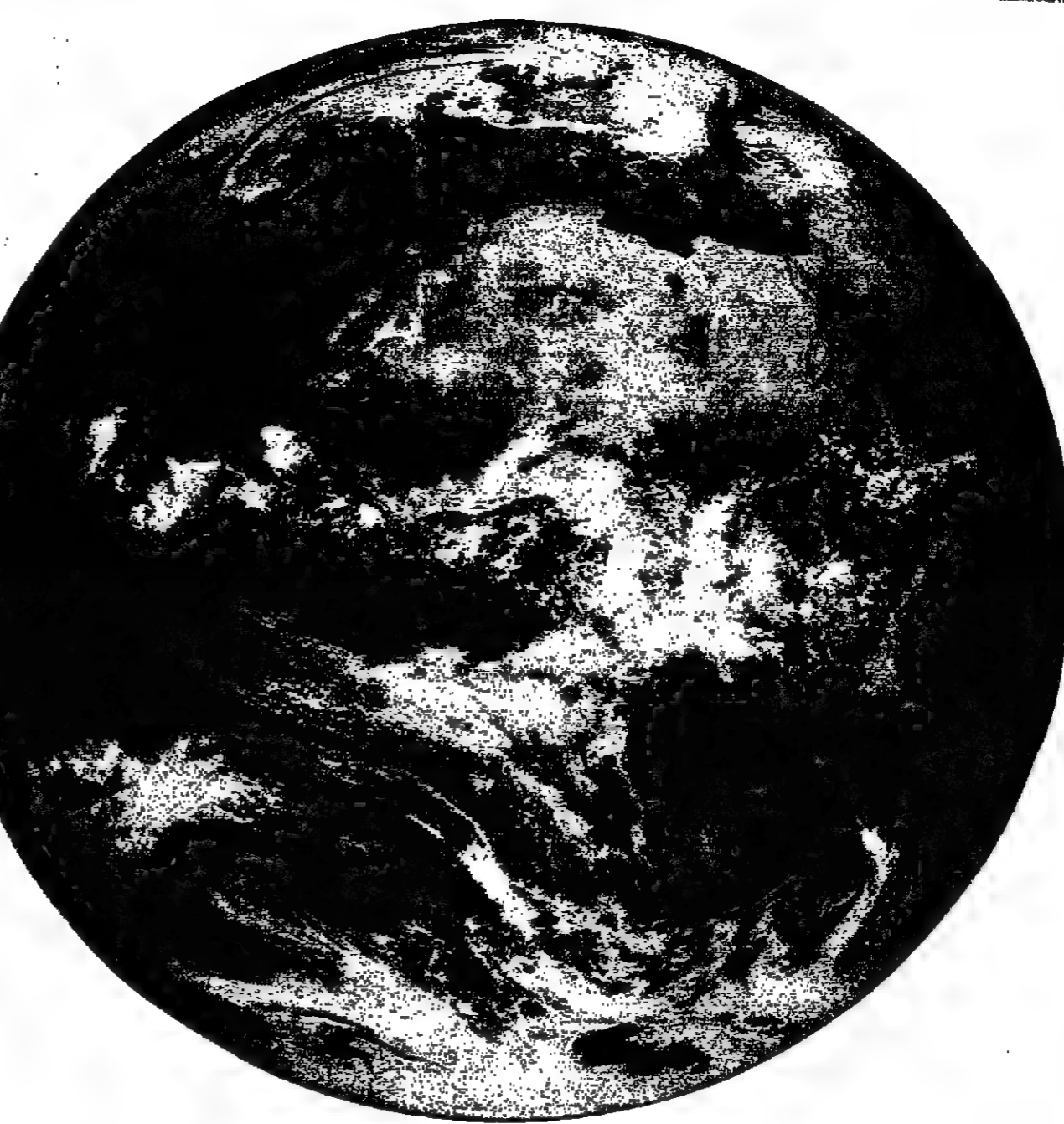
Cohen might have done more to answer his own question: perhaps guessing that we might support 20 billion who were content to live like Greek villagers but probably less than a billion in the style of California. But he brings eloquence to a problem of supreme importance, and should be read.

Meanwhile, in *Our Stolen Future*, Colborn, Myers and Dumanoski describe a world made dangerous by long-lasting chemicals and their breakdown products which, among other things, imitate the hormones of human beings and other animals and hence may influence the way we grow, reproduce, and even how we think and treat each other. With a succession of good intentions we have mickey-finned the world from pole to pole with the most insidious agents of chemical suicide that anyone could have conceived.

The deep flaw has been overambition and a series of philosophical errors. We have assumed that we know more than we do; and we have assessed the pending problem of the time in terms of problems past. Thus Paul Muller received a Nobel Prize in 1948 for his development of DDT — here at last was a potential answer to malaria and the principal pests of the world's crops. Demonstrably, DDT was non-toxic — but only when judged by the measures of the day. Who could have guessed that its breakdown products might accumulate in the environment and in the fat reserves of predatory animals and render them effectively infertile?

Yet, you might say, this does not seem particularly new. So why do we do so little about it? Because societies build their economies around particular technologies and it becomes extremely difficult to change course. But much of our intransigence has to do with Incredulity. We cannot quite believe the horrors that are promised: a world-scale crash if the world truly becomes overpopulated; or the fading of our species through loss of fertility as we continue to change the chemistry of our surroundings.

John Leslie's *The End of the World* shows that such scepticism is misplaced. There are,



he says, many reasons why the extinction of the human species within a reasonably short period is all too plausible.

These reasons include the old familiar — nuclear war, disease, the loss of the ozone layer and the rise of greenhouse gases. Less familiar risks, but still eminently plausible, include volcanic eruptions (which may have wiped out the dinosaurs), asteroids (which probably did wipe them out), a nearby supernova, a breakdown in the biosphere simply because complex systems do break down from time to time, and finally, some other factor that we have not thought of yet.

Possible man-made disasters include a reluctance to raise children (already seen in some rich countries), disaster

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN THE EARTH SUPPORT?

By Joel E. Cohen W. W. Norton, £22.50

OUR STOLEN FUTURE

By Theo Colborn, John Peterson Myers and Diane Dumanoski Little, Brown, £18.99

THE END OF THE WORLD

The Science and Ethics of Human Extinction

By John Leslie Routledge, £16.99

from genetic engineering, and the collapse of high-tech agriculture (for here is fragility indeed).

Leslie, a Professor of Philosophy at Guelph, also lists philosophic reasons: the suggestion of some religions that God will always bail us out; a formal lack of concern for children not yet born; the

relativists' suggestion that nothing is "really" bad.

But Leslie devotes much of his book to a quaint notion ascribed to the Cambridge cosmologist Brandon Carter. Statistically, this idea says, each of us alive today is more likely to be usual than unusual. If we are usual, then we are not likely to be among the

small percentage who were born near the time our species first evolved. It is far more likely that our present population represents our species in its maturity. This being so, our species probably does not have long to run. The argument is odd, and I may have contracted it too much. But the gist is heuristic: it suggests that the imminence of our decline is not implausible, but positively likely.

Leslie's message is bleak but his touch is light. Wit, after all, is preferable to the desperation which, in the circumstances, seems the only other response.

Colin Tudge's latest book, *The Day Before Yesterday*, has just been awarded the BP Conservation Book of the Year award.

The going gets tough for Joe

Ronald Brownstein

THE SINS OF THE FATHER
Joseph P. Kennedy
and the Dynasty
He Founded
By Ronald Kessler
Hodder & Stoughton, £20



A face of family unity over a network of complex relationships: John, Jean, Patricia, Joseph and Robert Kennedy at Patricia's wedding to Peter Lawford in 1954

this book might be an eye-opener. For everyone else, opening Kessler's book is like opening a refrigerator full of mouldering old crusts.

Kessler's leaden prose doesn't make the slog any easier. The Kennedys are nothing if not colourful. Yet Kessler renders them inert; even his subject remains stubbornly two-dimensional, a distant caricature of evil. Kessler calls him Joe, but never creates

any sense of intimacy. "Joe's" life took him from one evocative locale to another — from infant Hollywood, to the frantic first years of the New Deal, to England as (a notoriously sympathetic to the Nazis) American Ambassador in the days of the Blitz. But Kessler brings none of these places to life. Even the marriage between Joe and Rose Kennedy is more vividly portrayed in Nigel Hamilton's compelling

look at young Jack Kennedy, *JFK: Reckless Youth*.

Kessler most clearly demonstrates his shallowness in his cursory treatment of Joe Kennedy's sons, especially Jack and his brother Robert. Robert Kennedy was a complex politician who ultimately inspired millions before his assassination: all Kessler sees in him is an acolyte of Joseph McCarthy who cheated at touch football. In Jack Kennedy — who

despite all his sexual misadventures proved a sturdy and thoughtful leader — Kessler sees nothing but a pliant tool of his father who liked being President because it improved his love life. With such vagid conclusions, Kessler reveals far more about himself than his targets.

Kessler's soggy tome takes its place on a lengthening shelf of biographies meant to pulverise their subjects. The rules of the genre are well-established: those exposing an over-active libido, are to be squeezed in, no matter how flimsy the source. To maintain the purity of the scalpy portrait, any achievements (such as Joe Kennedy's surprisingly effective work regulating the stock market for Franklin Roosevelt) must be glossed over. Joe Kennedy certainly deserves anything he gets, even a book as uninspired and witless as this. But Kessler's readers deserve better.

Ronald Brownstein is National Political Correspondent of the Los Angeles Times

Straight from the muscle of the heart

Aidan Day on two fine Scottish voices, and the ancestry of the Caledonian literary renaissance

Alasdair Gray has written an odd "romantic" novel. Gray is, of course, one of the originating figures in the renaissance of Scottish fiction that has been taking place during the last 15 years or so. His name is linked — as a Glasgow novelist — with James Kelman, but the "renaissance" includes other, younger writers such as A. L. Kennedy, Janice Galloway and Irvine Welsh, not all of whom are Glasgow-based. There is nothing programmatic about this flowering of Scottish fiction. Yet, that said, it is still possible to talk about some common tendencies in the writing.

In his seminal 1981 novel *Lanark*, for example, Alasdair Gray found a way of combining Scottish urban realism with a fantastic dimension reminiscent of the writings of someone like Jorge Luis Borges. This mixture of fictional modes is reinvented by Irvine Welsh in his 1995 *Trainspotting*, where the alienation of being brought up in an underprivileged Edinburgh housing estate is explored through a character who lies in hospital, refusing to come out of a coma so that he may continue to pursue his surreal fantasies and remain untroubled by the real world.

Odd though Gray's new novel is, neither surreal fantasy nor social realism are especially prominent in either *Mavis Belfrage* or the five shorter tales that accompany the novel. Colin Kerr, the "hero" of *Mavis Belfrage* is a pedestrian college lecturer who irritates the hell out of his students by refusing to take a personal position over anything he is teaching. He falls for one of his students, Mavis Belfrage, who sleeps with him and who moves in with him for a while. Shocked by the imaginative repression she finds in Colin, Mavis at one point exclaims: "I wish I could shake and shake you till you came alive!" she leaves Colin for another man.

A few months later she revisits Colin and finds he is leaving to take up a job in Zambia. It turns out that Colin is paradoxically grateful for Mavis' cold treatment of him: it has jolted him into self-assertion. But for all that Colin now seems to have come to life, Mavis declares that he has turned into "the sort of man I most detest", too "damnable sure" of himself. And the story ends.

MAVIS BELFRAGE

By Alasdair Gray

Bloomsbury, £13.99

WHERE YOU FIND IT

By Janice Galloway

Cape, £9.99

It is not much use trying to make sense of this narrative at a realistic level. Everything is highly stylised. It is allegorical fiction and a clue to one of its meanings is given on the first page when we hear about "Classical and Romantic theories of education": the Classical associated with a system that forces the individual to conform and the Romantic with an approach that heightens a person's sense of individuality.

Reason as against imagination, boredom as against excitement, safety as against danger, might be other ways of stating this contrast. The allegory of *Mavis Belfrage* is talking, in part, at least, about the impossibility of ever being able to reconcile the contrary impulses that make up the state of being in love. No sooner has Colin come alive as Mavis wished than she prefers him as he was: "safe and sober". This does not seem a particularly original or striking message, true though it may be.

Where *Mavis Belfrage* does achieve an interesting effect is



through its intense stylisation, which makes it teasingly difficult to work out the authorial tone. Stylised as it is, this fiction contrasting dull Colin and imaginative Mavis may also plausibly be read as a dramatisation of the tensions which may fissure an individual mind. Looked at this way the novel is a variation on the theme of the divided mind: a theme which, while treated in radically different ways, runs through much of Scottish fiction as a whole. From James Hogg's *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*, first published in the early 19th century, through Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, to Irvine Welsh's portrayal of the disso-

ciated psyche in *Marabou Stork Nightmares*.

Psychological dissociation is also the preoccupation of Janice Galloway's 1989 novel *The Trick is to Keep Breathing*, which presents the mind of a woman suffering a psychological collapse. The stories in Galloway's wonderful new collection, *Where You Find It*, do not deal with such a severe condition of mental breakdown. But their vignettes of different kinds of human relationship assume that powerful feelings always contain a dimension of disturbance.

The different obsessions that Galloway dramatises in these stories are marked by her characteristic, almost hallucinatory focusing on detail. The title-story of the volume, *Where You Find It*, tells of a prostitute's passion for her pimp's kisses. She never has conventional sex with him, since her sexual drive is displaced from the genitalia on to the mouth and tongue: "You can feel the weed cord that keeps his tongue on stretching, pulling up from the soft velvety mass on the floor of his mouth, tightening to its limit like it might uproot".

Valentine has a woman describing her own and a woman friend's Valentine's Day. Her friend is eating heart-shaped sandwiches made with a cutter that she has bought to surprise her man: "Perfect pink hearts of ham, the grain of the muscle severed clean at the edge of the bread". A cutting of the heart is at the heart of this story, since the story-teller implicitly grasps what her own lover does not, that something is going seriously wrong with their relationship.

Or there is a story, no less claustrophobic, called *Waiting for Marilyn*, about a woman who is secretly, compulsively in love with the girl who cuts her hair. Or another, *Someone Had To*, so terrible it's hard to read again, spoken by the stepfather of a young girl he abuses.

Many of these short stories are, in fact, dramatic monologues, which accounts for their atmospheres, situated just this side of monomania. The speakers reveal something about themselves that they may not be aware of and the reader is left to judge them. With this kind of writing being produced, the continuing revival of Scottish fiction looks healthy, vigorous and exciting.

Aidan Day is Reader in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh

No sign of Eskimo snow

Along with a rather misconceived notion about the number of Eskimo words for snow, there is one other thing that sticks in the mind of undergraduates in linguistics. This is that the origin of language has been a taboo subject since the Linguistic Society of Paris so ruled in 1866. Professional linguists have indeed been maintaining a generally lofty silence, ignoring popular interest in hunches about bird song, monkeys, sea shanties, and "the plain fact that my dog understands every single thing I say".

A silence, that is, until a decade or so ago when language scholars got the habit of peeping into the laboratories of psychologists, zoologists, anthropologists, and archaeologists (none of whom of course had felt any particular pressure to be silent on the issue).

Randolph Quirk

THE SEEDS OF SPEECH

Language Origin and Evolution

By Jean Aitchison
Cambridge University Press, £25

The peeping gave rise to what are called "hyphen linguists", and these new breeds — especially perhaps neuro-linguists — started dusting down old theories and dreaming up new ones. Speculative talk about the origins of talk is on the way to achieving some thing like respectability again in language circles, and although it may seem early days to attempt a popular synthesis of such speculation, few who know her can be surprised that Jean Aitchison should be among the first to do so.

A hyphen linguist herself (socio- and psycho-), to mention but two, she has written copiously on such themes as "The Articulate Mammal", "Chimps, Children, and Creoles", even "Tadpoles, Cuckoos, and Multiple Births", and some of the material is put back into service again in her present book.

So Eskimo snow and Paris diktat are not the only bits with a familiar ring in *The Seeds of Speech*, which is in truth more of a laid-back and



Are there rules for making language? Swift's Gulliver with the scientists of Lagado

entertaining introduction to linguistics than the investigation of "language origin" promised in the subtitle. Aitchison does not, for instance, tell us that a century before the Paris decision, the Berlin Academy of Sciences was moving in the opposite direction. Struck by the amount of scholarly interest, Berlin encouraged more of the same by offering a prize for the best new contribution on the

origin of language. The fascinating story of 18th-century observation and theorising has recently been told by Paul Salmon, embracing Locke, Leibniz, Condillac, Rousseau, Monboddo, Adam Smith, and numerous others. Only a few of these are mentioned in *Seeds*, but one cannot help feeling that in 1996 our hunches are not all that more persuasive than those of Herder, Grimm, and Darwin. Even

ontogeny, in which the book sees some new plausibility, goes way back to Ernst Haeckel.

All the same (perish the thought of reactivating the Paris ban), we must be grateful to Jean Aitchison for so very readably assembling a good deal of recent work that might seem to hint at how language began. Not exhaustively, of course (no mention of M. E. Landsberg, for in-

stance), but she tells us all about the experimentation with apes — and probably more than the evidence justifies — about the possible analogies lying among the characteristics of pidgin languages. She valuably reviews the anthropological, archaeological, and palaeontological evidence for the emergence of homo sapiens in the Rift Valley. But as for homo loquens, we seem to be little closer to knowing when, where, why, or how this stage was reached.

Not that we are denied deft exploration of some fascinating questions. What was the relation between brain size and the emergence of language? What was the role of gesture? Of upright posture? Of laryngeal anatomy? Of starting to use tools? Of the struggle to survive?

In such answers as the author deems it possible to offer, she is prudently inclined to exploit a wide range of epistemic modality. "Many groups of speakers might have had an embryo language, but full language may have developed among a small group whose language had evolved further than those of others. This could have enabled them to outwit existing groups, to whom they may have taught their language".

The book is liberally peppered with fetching quotations from all manner of sources, ranging from the cartoon character Charlie Brown through Lewis Carroll to "Jonathan Swift's satirical novel *Gulliver's Travels* (1726)". And as this last implies, the author goes out of her way to offer a restful read to all comers. Don't be alarmed by names like von Humboldt or Gottfried Herder: you'll always be told who, what, and when they were (the 19th-century German philosopher-linguist Wilhelm von Humboldt). We seem not to be expected to have prior knowledge even of the 18th-century lexicographer Samuel Johnson.

It may be carrying authorial tact a little far, but this highly intelligent, well-read lady's academic post includes "communication" in the job description, and there can surely be few dons who are better at it.

Childhood far from the garden of Eden

Russell Celyn Jones

THE TESTIMONY OF TALIESIN JONES

by Rhidian Brook
Flamingo, £9.99

his mother from the family to a "unisex" barber, Toni, "a professor of hair". She leaves behind her former husband who talks to the walls and rips out telephones. Jonathan her eldest son who withdraws into rugby-hero fantasies, and Taliesin, who is trying to make sense of it all in global terms. His *a priori* melancholic disposition becomes whipped into a religious fever.

He visits preacher Preece in his chapel on the hill "like an admonishing maths teacher" and gets nothing but negative reinforcement from this old-style fire and brimstone methodist. It is Billy Jones, his piano teacher and faith healer, who, living in his bungalow, is closer to God than Preece is in his chapel. Billy's religion has been updated to therapy. He tells Taliesin that the key to faith lies in being able to express feelings. "Bottling emotion eventually makes you sick."

Thus reinforced Taliesin helps his father express himself. He offers a pomegranate, "a complicated fruit" which Handicott reckons was Eve's real choice, to his separated

parents in an attempt to heal their marriage. At school he forms a gang called the Believers, having achieved cognition, when he realises that nothing will last.

But the reader knows what Taliesin cannot, that the etiology of original character lies in the exact same moment when a child doubts the sanctity of the state of childhood itself. Taliesin's integrity has been indelibly forged. What will change with age is style, the texturing of language. His conviction, his personal signature, is a miracle of parthenogenesis.

Although the theme of this novel is religious, it bears no relation to the lugubrious Welsh methodist prose sagas

of the past. Instead it incorporates a sectarian spiritualism. Brook's voice has been plucked from the babbling tongues of his country and made new. He is generous to all his characters — even the school bully finds redemption — and the landscape comes alive with the transferred emotion of those people whose lives do not go as planned: "The leaves seem to be hanging on for their lives waiting for a small breeze to end it all".

This is a highly accomplished, beautiful meditation on childhood and a panacea for a cynical age.

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Requiem for a romantic revolutionary



Youthful poise: Childers (right) with his brother Henry

No revolution ever produced a nobler or purer spirit" (John Buchan). The quotation is taken from the new and impressive life of Erskine Childers by Jim Ring, as readable as it is deeply researched. Churchill, to whom there are many references in the index, varied in his estimates of Childers. When Childers was facing a death sentence, Churchill, Colonial Secretary, and one of the signatories of the Treaty which Childers had opposed in arms, called him "a murderous renegade". Ring quotes him later as describing Childers as a great patriot and statesman, apparently in a letter to Childers's widow. Childers, who never held ministerial office, would have overlooked the hyperbole in the generosity of atonement.

Childers was born in 1870. Educated at Haileybury and Cambridge, his father, an English professor, died when he was six. His mother was a Barton of Glendalough House, County Wicklow, which Childers came to regard as his true home. The traumatic period of his life began in 1919 when he came to settle in Ireland. With him came his wife, Molly, an American lady of celebrated charm and purpose as inflexible as his own. His official career had been that of a

Committee Clerk in the House of Commons, but he had served in two wars, winning the DFC in 1916. He had written a volume in *The Times History of the Boer War*, and two technical military books. But he is still remembered today by *The Riddle of the Sands* (1903), which has been described as the first and best of spy stories.

He was no latecomer to Irish politics. Before the war he had published a solid work, *The Framework of Home Rule*. In 1913, in his small yacht, the *Asgard*, he and Molly had brought in arms for the Irish Volunteers, in response to the massive gun-running by the Orangemen in the north. In 1917, he was released from the Services to act as one of the secretaries of the ill-starred Irish Convention.

All this paled before what was to follow. He became Director of Information for the rebel Sinn Féin government and Secretary of the Irish delegation during the Treaty negotiations in the autumn of 1921. "A year later," as Jim Ring puts it, "Childers was dead, shot at dawn, according to Lloyd

George, for rebellion against the liberties he had helped to win".

That, of course, is not how he saw it, or how I and his many admirers have ever seen it. Jim Ring calls him "the harbinger of liberty". It is, of course, an undeniable fact that Erskine Childers joined the armed resistance to the Free State Government, which was accepted by the great majority of the Irish people at the time.

Ring poignantly describes the reluctance of the Republican command to make use of his military expertise and his decision to return to Dublin to work for the cause in a civilian capacity.

When I was writing my book on the Treaty, I stayed several times at Glendalough House and received much kindness from his cousin, Robert Barton, and his widow Molly. I was shown the exact spot in the corridor where he was arrested. I still cannot quite understand why he was carrying the revolver that had been given to him by Michael Collins. Without it, the Free State Government would have had no excuse for executing him.

Ring calls his penultimate chapter "No Greater Love", referring to his love for Molly. This gives the flavour of his final messages: "Now I am going, coming to you, heart's beloved, Sweetheart, comrade, wife, I shall fall/ Asleep in your arms, God above blessing us."

Can a tragedy ever have a happy ending? If ever it can, it did so in this case. De Valera never failed to express profound admiration for Childers publicly and privately. Erskine Childers shook hands with the soldiers who were about to shoot him; and when the younger Erskine visited his father before his execution, he promised to carry out his father's last wish and shake hands with those who had ordered the execution. This he did, and later went on to become President of the Irish Republic. In *Peace by Ordeal* (an account of the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations), I wrote in 1935: "With all his wanderings, his was a continuing journey, governed by no passing influence, guided to no ephemeral end. He lived and laboured and he fought and died, under the shadow of the eternal."

I cannot improve on those words today. I am indeed happy that I have found in Jim Ring an altogether worthy biographer.

Frank Longford

ERSKINE CHILDERS

By Jim Ring

John Murray, £19.99

The Unconsolable
Kazuo Ishiguro

Masterpiece

The Times

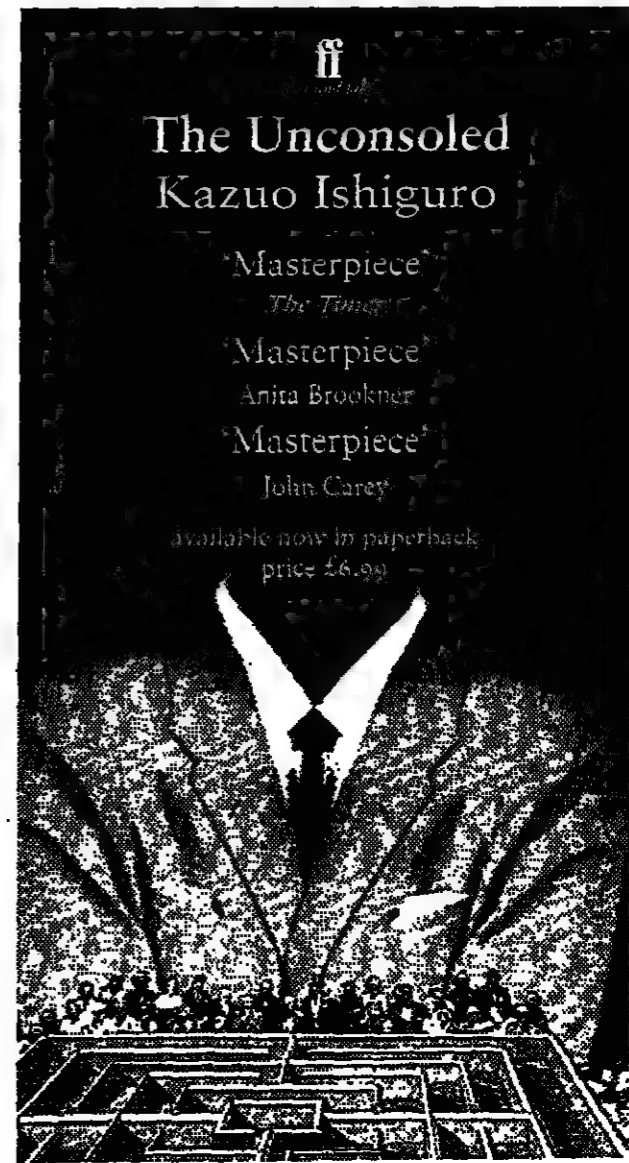
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BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

Warwickshire are already safely into the last eight of the Benson and Hedges Cup, the one competition in which they made no show last summer and, despite a further injury to Andy Moles, their squad is as

former seam bowler, Parvaz Mirza, who died of a heart disorder last September. Maneer Mirza, 18, is a Birmingham-born pace bowler and is at present completing his A levels.

Sherwin Campbell, the West Indies opener, makes his county championship debut for Durham against Middlesex at Lord's today. "I am looking forward to it," Campbell said. "I scored a century there against Middlesex on last summer's tour and also made 93 in the Test match."



By JOHN GOODBODY

"The position may be reviewed," he said. "It is possible that another slot for the match may be available."

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

or 5-0 anyway so it would make much more sense to play the tie here. They could enjoy Wimbledon and make a bit of money while we would avoid the possibility of illness. The last thing you need is to pick up some sort of virus in such a hectic spell between Wimbledon and the Olympics."

Rusedski was speaking at the launch of the new LTA tennis magazine, *Ace*, at Queen's Club, London, and, in a specially-arranged assault on his 137mph service world record, he clocked an unofficial speed of 138mph.

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

NEW AVER LIMITED
 COMPANY NUMBER 1060097
 ON MEMBERSHIP
VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 On 5 May 1996 the above
 named company was placed in
 members' voluntary liquidation
 under the supervision of the
 Liquidator, Mr. Anthony J. Peto
 Peto Waterhouse, was appointed
 by the members of the company
 to the office of the Liquidator.
 Under the provisions of the
 Companies Act 1985 and the
 Insolvency Act 1986 the creditors
 of the company must submit their
 company's annual returns, and
 writings, of any claim against the
 company to the Liquidator, at No.
 1 London Bridge, London SE1
 9QL, by 17 June 1996 which is
 the date for the creditors' meeting.
 The Liquidator also gives notice
 that he will then make a final
 distribution of the assets of the
 company. Creditors who do not
 claim by the date mentioned will
 not be able to claim in the
 distribution.
 The creditor is asked to pay all
 claims to the Liquidator in full
 by 5 May 1996.

**EXPRESS LABEL
COMPANY LIMITED**
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
pursuant to Section 36 of the
Insolvency Act 1986, that the
meeting of the creditors of the
above named Company will be
held at the offices of Messrs
Messrs Appleby, 302 High Street
Manchester, M4 1QB on Wednesday
the 14th May 1986 at 2.00 noon
for the purposes mentioned in
Sections 59, 100 and 101 of the
Act.

Pursuant to Sections 56, 58, 59 and
102 (3) of the Act, Mr P Lomax
of Popperston and Appleby, 302
High Street Manchester, M4 1QB
is appointed to act as the
Insolvency Practitioner who will
manage the affairs of the Company
in relation to the above information
inasmuch as they may require
realisation.

14th and 23rd of MAY 1986
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
MRS H ROGERS, DIRECTOR.

[illegible]

**WORLD LEAGUE PROPERTIES
(UK) LIMITED**
On Members
Voluntary Liquidators

In accordance with Rule 4.1(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, I, **Law Anthony Manning of Bichard & Co. Chartered Accountants**, of London W1X 9DF, as the Liquidator of the above named company, hereby give notice that on **26 April 1996** I will convene a meeting of the creditors of the company, which has been voluntarily wound up, are required, or may be required, to attend in their own person or by their representatives, their addresses as known to me, full particulars of the debts and claims which they are to bring in, and of the names and addresses of their Creditors. The undersigned Liquidator hereby gives notice that the meeting will be held at the said company's registered office, **100, Strand, London W1X 9DF**, at **11.00 a.m.** on the said date, and, if so required, at any adjourned meeting, or by their Solicitors, to come to the meeting, to vote, to be paid or to receive any dividend or claims at such time and place as may be determined by the Liquidator.

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Notice convening the Meeting
Minutes of the previous year
1995. Report of Committee
Management, Balance Sheet and
Accounts. Appointment of
Auditors. Appointment of
Trustees. Re-appointment of
Trustees. Any other business
which notice has been given.

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WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PERNOCTATION
a. Multiples of eight
b. A vigil
c. Artificial hatching

KIPPAGE ,
a. Commotion
b. A soporific
c. A haulage tax

Answers on page 46

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CRISIS CORRESPONDENT

Fide preview

Caro-Kann Defence	
1 e4	c6
2 d4	d5
3 Nd2	exd4
4 Nxc4	Nd7
5 Nc5	Nc6

6	Bd3	u6
7	N1D3	Bd6
8	Qa2	h6
9	Ne4	Neex4
10	Qex4	Kf6
11	Qf4	Bex5
12	Ne5	Bex5
13	das5	Qex5+
14	ex3	Qex5+
15	Ba3	g6
16	0-0-0	b6
17	Ba3	ex5
18	Rfe1	Bd7
19	Qa3	Rhd8
20	g3	Qc7
21	Bd4	Bd5
22	Bd4	Rf5
23	h4	Raex8
24	Bc2	RSd8
25	Bd5+	Kd6
26	Bex5+	h6g5
27	Bex5	h6g5
28	ex	Ke7
29	Qex3	Re
30	h4	Qd7
31	gxd4	gxd4
32	ex4	ex5
33	h5	Qg4
34	Qh7+	Kd8
35	h6	Bc2
36	h5	Qex5
37	Bd5	Rf2
38	Bg6	Ke7
39	h7	Ke6
40	Bc3	h6
41	ex4	h6
42	Rg7+	Bd5
43	Ra7	ex4
44	Ba2	h6
45	h4	B3
46	Bd1	Bh5
47	Kc1	Ra7
48	Rf7	Kex5
49	Ra6	Ra2

Diagram of final position

□ Raymond Keene writes on the

the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene


White to play. This position is from the game Siegfried — Hunnefeld, Germany 1941. White has a tremendous attack but is hampered by the threat against his knight on g5. How did he deal with this while advancing his own cause as swiftly as possible?

Solution on page 46

Solution on page 46

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Australians embrace cross-code culture

Greg Campbell on the spectators who are changing their rugby allegiance

WHILE professional rugby union has stuttered into life amid disagreement and disenchantment in the British Isles, the game has been making rapid advances in Australia, once an almost exclusive province of rugby league. The public, it seems, cannot get enough of the Super 12 competition, a provincial event drawing teams from Australia, South Africa and New Zealand.

The Super 12 was launched at Sydney Football Stadium on March 1, when 26,102 spectators filled into the ground amid fireworks, singing and dancing for the game between New South Wales and Transvaal teams loaded with international players. After a victory for the home team, the supporters left happy and the verdict was that they would be back.

Bath have pulled out of the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham on Saturday, Phil de Glanville, the captain, said: "We can't get a team together. Most of the squad are affected by examinations, holidays, injuries or unavailability. It's a game too far."

The competition has its roots in the Super Six championship, a provincial championship between New Zealand's top four provinces, New South Wales and Queensland, which came into being in 1987.

There was only modest financial backing and the concept of international provincial rugby failed to attract Australian sports enthusiasts. Now, however, after three World Cups, which have commanded massive world-wide television audiences, combined with the introduction of open professionalism, rugby union's appeal has been transformed. The slick, mass-market product that has emerged this season as Super 12 is, in reality, a re-packaged, up-market version of Super 10, which developed from the Super Six foundations.

The Super 12 has not been a one-night wonder. New South Wales have attracted crowds of 20,687 (v ACT), 30,147 (v Natal) and 24,616 (v Otago). Nor has the growth been limited to New South Wales. Queensland were initially watched by modest crowds of

9,500, 12,000, 12,480 and 15,663, but the Ballymore ground in Brisbane was stretched to its limits when 22,296 and 25,692 supporters watched the matches against New South Wales and Auckland respectively. The crowd support has not been restricted to the two main rugby centres. ACT's introduction to the competition has drawn crowds of 15,042 and 17,019 for games against Queensland and Auckland.

So why has the Super 12 been a hit in Australia? Unquestionably, the media exposure of the 1991 and 1995 World Cups, together with the success of the national team, has raised the profile of rugby union. Its success has also coincided with the disenchantment of rugby league followers after the failure to get the Australian Super League off the ground. Many are changing their allegiance from rugby league to rugby union.

Research has shown that most rugby league supporters like to see top quality international rugby union once or twice a year. Super 12 has managed to attract the same market more often, albeit to provincial players.

For the players, the Super 12 has been an energy-sapping, mind-numbing affair. Each provincial team plays 11 championship games, but, in the professional era, player complaints are given little consideration. It is a case of the players having to sing for their supper.

The spectators have been entertained by open, free-flowing rugby, and many high-scoring games. The recent Queensland v Auckland and New South Wales v Auckland games produced nearly 200 points. However, some of the rugby has been intense but sloppy, perhaps a result of the rigorous playing and travel schedule, plus the fact that the tournament is played at the beginning of the season.

As the reviews have been good, the championship's future appears assured, despite the wrangling over broadcasting rights that no sport seems to be without. It is one of the few links with rugby union in the northern hemisphere, where the uncertainty of the new era seems more pronounced than ever set against Super 12's growing success.

Lewis emerges bubbling from the melting-pot

Srikumar Sen from New York on the impact of the Kronk gym spirit on the Briton's development

THE defeat by Oliver McCall in 1994 may be the best thing that has happened to Lennox Lewis. It exposed his deficiencies and forced him to change his trainer. He has been with Emanuel Steward, his new trainer, for a year and the director of the famous Kronk gym in Detroit reports that the complete amateur who came to him has, at last, become the complete professional, capable of dealing even with Mike Tyson.

Steward's evaluation may be put to the test at Madison Square Garden here tomorrow when he meets Ray Mercer who, like Lewis, won a gold medal in the Seoul Olympic Games.

"I always wanted to sign Lennox since the Olympics," Steward said. "It was an enormous disappointment when he decided to live in England. I used to break my heart watching his fights because, even though he won the world title, I knew his resources were not being tapped."

"I think he is twice the fighter now. He always had a right hand but now he has become a complete fighter. He feels he is superior to every other heavyweight." Even though Lewis's main faults were a lack of balance and a total reliance on the big right hand, Steward identified a flaw that went deeper than technical problems. Lewis, by surrounding himself with friends and admirers, had become remote from the daily grind of the gym and had turned into a "softie".

Steward's cure was to introduce him to the fiercely competitive atmosphere of the Kronk. "Lennox was a



Lewis sharpens up his image, training in the Kronk gym in front of a mirror as he prepares for his bout. Photograph: Wally Santana

conservative type who lived with a tight bunch of people and trained in quiet places," Steward said. "So I told him, 'You don't want to be around those quiet places. You need to be in a wild and unorganised type of fight atmosphere. All that chess-playing stuff is no good, you need jungle warfare; crazy, arrogant people around you.'"

In three months Lewis has immersed himself in the Kronk atmosphere and emerged as a typical boxer from that forbidding melting-pot. "He found it strange at first," Steward said. "But he soon started to enjoy it. If you can survive in the Kronk, you can survive anywhere. Now I can see the confidence that had gone after the defeat by McCall coming back and he

is much more at home. Lennox has learnt the mentality of Kronk people. He wanted to be like the others. I knew then that he had completed the transition from amateur to professional. Before, we had one right hand, now we have an array of weapons with which he can handle most heavyweights."

For the past six weeks Lewis has been training in

the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania and observers who saw him there say he had never looked better in training.

Steward said that, instead of bringing in sparring partners, he had brought in proper fighters, who turned every training session into a real contest. "I once saw Riddick Bowe having a life-and-death struggle in the

gym with one man, so I brought him in. Lennox had no problems whipping him." Steward clearly makes some extravagant claims for Lewis but, even so, a feeling of expectation remains. Mercer has a good chin and can punch. He is a perfect opponent to show whether Lewis has, in fact, become a man capable of handling the best heavyweights in the world.

Cope misses final Atlanta squad

By ALIX RAMSAY

IT HAS been six months since Great Britain's women hockey players won their place at the Olympic Games and, for the players, it has been a fraught time: a period of working, waiting and hoping for a place in the final squad. Of the 19 who went to Atlanta for the warm-up series against the United States and Spain, each knew that three would not be returning in the summer.

Yesterday, Sue Slocombe, the coach, made her final selection, dropping Lucy Cope. Sue McDonald and Diane Renton to reduce the squad to 16. For Cope, the decision is particularly hard to take. She missed out on selection

for the World Cup two years ago because of injury and, although an international for England, has yet to play in a leading tournament. Her team-mates at club level have fared better. Kathy Johnson won back her place in defence, having missed the early part of the Olympic build-up trying to regain her fitness after having a baby. Jo Mould, her partner at the back, has also made her presence felt, winning her trip to the Olympics from nowhere. She has yet to be selected for England, let alone Britain.

The squad has a few wise old heads in its midst, with

Karen Brown, Jill Atkins and Jane Sixsmith all going for their third Games. With temperatures and humidity in Atlanta likely to cause problems, an agile mind and the ability to adapt are as important as strong legs. The Scottish contingent has been reduced to three with the loss of McDonald. However, Rhona Simpson, from Edinburgh Ladies, has secured her place in the attack.

GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD: H Rose (Sutton Coldfield), J Thompson (Newport), J Atkins (Rushford), K Brown (Sutton), S Fraser (Gowall), K Johnson (Leicester), J Mould (Leicester), C Cook (Highworth), M Davies (Sutton Coldfield), J Miller (Carlisle), P Robertson (Grove), A Bennett (Sutton), J Cullen (Highworth), M Nicholls (Sutton), P Simpson (Edinburgh Ladies), J Sixsmith (Sutton Coldfield).

Haining nets another hat-trick

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

PETER HAINING is becoming a hat-trick expert. The triple world lightweight sculls champion completed a hat-trick of Wingfield Sculls titles from Putney to Mortlake yesterday, followed home by the 1993 champion, Wade Hall-Craggs, and the 1991 and 1992 champion, Guy Pooley.

Before the start, the scullers, including the "underdog", Steve Fowler, were aware that the strong northeast wind, whipping up white horses from Fulham to Hammer-smith Bridge, would place a premium on watersmanship to that point, but they could not have envisaged the man-made problems which would ensue.

Hall-Craggs and Haining led from the start and, in the appalling conditions, reached the Mile Post level in 4min 57sec. Haining then began a push and broke Hall-Craggs from Harrods to Hammer-smith Bridge (9min 09sec), reached with the champion four lengths up.

The race seemed over as the water flattened. Haining was clear and going away, Pooley many lengths behind Hall-Craggs, and Fowler had disappeared. Pooley, though, began to move steadily up on Hall-Craggs and Haining suddenly found himself dogged by an erratic-steering sightseeing boat which pulled

in front of him from Corney Reach Pier. He weaved around it. Pooley, enjoying the calmer water, was almost overlapping for second place at the Bandstand until they hit two more big launch washes before the finish, reached, remarkably, in 22min 03sec by Haining. It was a day for hard men. Haining, aiming for heavyweight selection for the Olympics, said: "I'd like to see Cop [the Slovenian world heavyweight champion] in those conditions. He wouldn't stand a chance."

RESULTS: 1, P Haining (Aston Kensington, 22m 03s); 2, W Hall-Craggs (Newport, 22m 11s); 3, G Pooley (Leander), 22m 22s.

SPORTS LETTERS

Rugby union must take close look at itself

From Mr Mark Benson

Sir, Over the past weeks we have seen the showpiece club cup finals of both rugby union and rugby league in England. Both games were very tight and played with great passion, but in terms of which was the better spectacle there was no comparison.

The Rugby Football Union and the clubs must realise that their energies would be far better spent looking at the quality of their product rather than in debating who takes what share of potential television revenues and how much to pay a player to lure him away from a first division club.

If rugby union is to turn professional then it will need to "get real" at the same time. The rugby league final will be remembered for everything that is unique in great sport; but what will the union final be remembered for?

Today's sports followers have a better choice than ever of events to watch and follow. They are very discerning and they will not tolerate too much

more disillusionment with the once great game of rugby union.

Yours sincerely, MARK BENSON, 42 Formosa Street, W9.

From Mr Robin Fairlie

Sir, I understand the RFU's claim for a disproportionate share of the home countries' income from television is based on the assertion that there are far more viewers of the five nations' championships in England than in the other home countries.

I can't suppose that my wife (Irish) and myself (Scottish) are the only English-resident viewers who are not England supporters. Not only the Welsh, Irish and Scottish (and perhaps even French) exiles in England, but I suspect, many England supporters too, are fed up with the inevitability, season after season, of having to watch live broadcasts of dead-end matches featuring England, while seeing only edited highlights of much more skilful and entertaining games.

That countries which under-

stand how to play rugby that spectators want to watch should receive less financial support than a country that seems either not to know or not to care is a sick joke.

The argument that English rugby needs more money because it has more clubs and players to support is the reverse of the truth. Scottish and Irish rugby suffer desperately from the low profile of the game in those countries: the health of the game there (and therefore of the championship) depends on nurturing the game in those areas where it is weakest.

The arrogance and greed of the RFU (evidenced also in its attitude to its own clubs) is beyond belief: a few years of a five nations' championships in which England is replaced by Italy until the ruling body at Twickenham comes to its senses would be a welcome development for the health of the game in the northern hemisphere.

Yours faithfully, ROBIN FAIRLIE, 15 Vincent Terrace, NL.

East-West split to help cricket

From Mr Martin K. Miller

Sir, The problem with English cricket seems to stem from the fact that we play too many matches compared to our Test opposition.

There is a possible solution based on a proven method used in American sport and, indeed, in the Minor Counties cricket championship. Instead of one division of 18 teams in the county championship there should be two divisions of nine teams, still playing each other once, with both divisions being of the same standing and a play-off at the end of the season to produce overall champions.

Better alternative

From Mr S. Dunkey

Sir, Most people agree that football's penalty shoot-out is unsatisfactory. There is a viable alternative.

If teams are level after 90 minutes, each takes five mandatory penalty kicks in the usual way. Any scores from these are added to any goals

from normal time, so producing a "running aggregate".

A further mandatory 30 minutes' extra time is played, plus stoppages in the usual way. Any goals scored during extra time are added to the running aggregate.

At the conclusion of extra time, the team with the higher overall score wins the match. If the overall scores finish level after extra time, goals scored in extra time count double, or, should both teams score during extra time, the first goal scored counts double.

In the (unlikely) event that both are level and inseparable even with the above rules invoked, sudden-death penalty kicks would have to finish the match and produce a result.

Yours sincerely, S. DUNKEY, 14 Glamis Drive, Stone, Staffordshire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

Win tickets for the Middlesex Sevens



Rugby fans have the chance to win a pair of tickets to two end-of-season show case games at Twickenham. One of the England team sponsors, Scrumpy Jack cider, is giving Times readers four pairs of tickets. The first two pairs are for the match on Saturday, May 11, when you can see Leicester, Wasps, Bristol and Sale contest one of the most prestigious rugby shirt. The two winners will



also receive two cases of premium draught cider each to help them celebrate. The other two pairs of tickets are for the league-union clash on May 25 between union champions, Bath and league champions, Wigan. The two winners will get one case of Scrumpy Jack. And there are also three runners-up prizes consisting of a signed by members of the England team, plus a case of cider.

HOW TO ENTER

Simply phone your answer to this question to our competition hotline number, below:

Which team won last year's Middlesex Sevens?

Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received, normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply

CALL 089 40 50 07 BEFORE MIDNIGHT TONIGHT

Calls cost 35p cheap rate and 45p at all other times

Champions reveal charitable side

Ferguson hoping to turn on style for a grand finale

BY PETER BALL

MANCHESTER United's past two visits to the FA Cup Final were tarnished in some eyes by the team's record of indiscipline. This year, their fresh-faced young team is eager to leave, and yesterday they showed their admirable side when Alex Ferguson, the manager, revealed that they are donating £20,000 from their players' pool to the Dublin Appeal. "They won't want to tell you about that," Ferguson said yesterday, "but I'm telling you anyway because I think they are a great bunch, and it is a terrific gesture by them."

A year ago, United's loss of the FA Cup Final was reflected in a lifeless display in the Cup Final a week later. This year, Ferguson hopes the euphoria of the title triumph last Sunday will be reflected in an exciting display against Liverpool on Saturday.

"I can't think of a better way of going into it than to win the title on the last game of the season," Ferguson said. "It was different two years ago, because they'd won it two or three weeks before. There's obviously a lot of delighted players at the moment, and hopefully that takes them bounding into the final. I think the disappointment accounted for last year's flatness, so I hope we see a real, bouncy performance from them on Saturday."

Reassuringly, Ferguson is convinced that this final will

be a fitting climax to a season full of fine football from the leading Premiership clubs. He is, however, under no illusions about the task ahead, with Liverpool ready to prove formidable opposition.

"I think it will be a brilliant game, with two young teams full of good players," he said. "We know Liverpool will try to beat us, which not every team does, and we will certainly be trying to win, so that should make for a good, open game."

"Liverpool were the dominant force when I came to Manchester, and beating them was the challenge I faced when they had some great teams. Now, I think Roy Evans [the Liverpool manager] has turned it round again, and they are an excellent football team. Some of the individuals he has got now, like Fowler, McManaman, Collymore, Barnes and David James, would get in any of the great Liverpool teams. They've got some outstanding individuals."

"And they have great motivation now, because they know that everyone is expecting us to do the double. So it will be a very difficult game. They murdered us on their own ground in December, and in the game at Old Trafford, for an hour, they gave us a torrid time. These are nice reminders that we have a hard job on our hands on Saturday."

Ferguson's first task, however, will be to pick his team. Unlike Evans, who is expected

to name his team today, he is in no hurry to confront the problem, particularly the choice between Steve Bruce, the club captain and his trusted warhorse, and David May, one of his more contentious buys, who scored the first goal against Middlesbrough on Sunday and whose form over the past two months has been outstanding.

Ferguson confessed that sentiment would come into the equation, but he then bit his tongue before adding more. The precedent set by Bryan Robson two years ago, however, and May's selection on Sunday, when Bruce was fit, suggest that sentiment will come into the equation, but not into the final decision.

The choice between Paul Scholes and Andy Cole may also exercise the manager before he names his team, but it seems certain that Lee Sharpe will not be in the starting line-up, and may not even be on the substitutes' bench. Sharpe was bitterly disappointed not to be in the 14 on duty at Middlesbrough last Sunday.

"The manager called me in on Monday and told me what was what," Sharpe said. "I don't know about the Cup Final, but it's going to be difficult for me to change the team. If I am disappointed on Saturday, it won't be as bad as it was last Sunday. I suppose I've got to hope for a place on the bench. My fingers are crossed."



Eric Cantona, Manchester United's France international, practises some of the ball skills that supporters hope will illuminate the FA Cup Final against Liverpool at Wembley

Sell-outs are expected at Newcastle despite price rise

NEWCASTLE United supporters will have to pay more to watch FA Cup Final Premier League football next season after the club yesterday announced a 15 per cent increase in season-ticket prices. Newcastle will still, however, post sell-out notices when more than 31,000 season-ticket renewal notices go out in the next few days.

A club spokesman said: "Season-ticket costs have not altered in the previous two seasons but, in general, prices are increased by approximately 15 per cent across the board. All season-ticket seats in the stadium are allocated and it looks very much the same situation as last season, when there were no season tickets left for 12,000 other fans on the waiting list."

Charlton Athletic fans may seek an injunction to prevent the second leg of the first division play-off semi-final against Crystal Palace going ahead. Charlton's official supporters' club claims that Palace's ticket arrangements for the match on Wednesday are in breach of the competition rules because Charlton have been allocated only 2,883 seats instead of the 6,700 which would constitute the required 25 per cent of the capacity at Selhurst Park.

Bruce Grobbelaar, the Southampton goalkeeper, has been dropped from the Zimbabwe squad to give younger players a chance. The newly-appointed coach, Marc Duvalard, said yesterday. Duvalard said that Grobbelaar, 38, would not play in Zimbabwe's first World Cup qualifying match against Madagascar next month or feature in any other games under his control.

Relieved Becker scrapes through

BORIS BECKER came perilously close to defeat by Emilio Alvarez, 23, a qualifier from Spain, before scraping through to the third round of the Panasonic German Open, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in Hamburg yesterday (Alix Ramsay writes).

After 12 years on the circuit and with six grand-slam titles to his name, Becker is still waiting for his first day-court title. "On a clay court you cannot put someone away with my sort of game unless it is a perfect day with perfect conditions," he said.

At 3-3 in the third set, Alvarez was keeping pace with Becker, the No 1 seed. Only a nervous service game gave Becker the chance to break for 5-3 and wrap up the match. Goran Ivanisevic, the No 2 seed, was not so lucky, easily beaten by Carl-Uwe Steeb, 6-3, 6-4.

Gibson goes

Rugby league: Rochdale Hornets yesterday dismissed Steve Gibson, their Australian player-coach, and Iain MacCorquodale, his assistant. Rochdale have lost five of their opening six matches. Paddy Kirwan, the reserve team coach, is in temporary charge. Castleford have signed David Chapman, 22, an Australian centre, from Hunter Mariners.

BBC on course

Golf: The Open Championship will stay on terrestrial television until the next century after the Royal and Ancient Golf Club announced yesterday that they had struck a deal with the BBC. The new contract covers the world's most famous golf tournament, which will remain with the BBC up to and including 2001.

Cheshire smiles

Shooting: Colin Cheshire, in his role of chairman of the Army Target Rifle Club, won the Zimbabwe President's Prize in Harare, Cheshire, the chief executive of the National Rifle Association, finished with a final aggregate of 392.45.

Wild in Cardiff

Tennis: Clare Wood, the British No 1, and Sam Smith, of Essex, have received wild cards for next week's Rover Championships at Cardiff, the first major tennis tournament to be staged in Wales for more than 20 years.

Calzaghe rival

Boxing: Tim Dendy, from Tennessee, will be the next opponent for Joe Calzaghe, the British super-middleweight champion, in a ten-round non-title contest at the Star Leisure Centre in Cardiff next Wednesday.

Rookie pursues brighter horizons

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

THE other week a reporter asked Nancy Lopez if Carrie Webb was the best rookie she had ever seen. "No," replied Lopez, to her own surprise. "I think I was." The reporter then proceeded to tell Lopez, who won nine tournaments, five of them in a row, in 1978, her first full season on the Ladies' Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tour, that in her day, the competition was not what it is now, that she won all those titles because there was not much to beat.

"It worried me that I'd answered him the way I had," Lopez, now 39 and mother of three daughters, said yesterday, on the eve of the McDonald's LPGA Championship at the DuPont Country Club in Delaware. "I've never wanted to be immodest but he set me off. He kinda hurt my feelings and I was a little offended. I knew how hard I'd worked,

how much I practised. I did work for it and there were career players like JoAnne Carner, Beth Daniel, Betsy King, Juli Inkster, Donna Caponi and Jane Blalock."

Webb, the young Australian whose outstanding early-season form has caused the comparisons, agreed with Lopez. "Nancy was the best rookie by far, ever. I don't think anyone will outdo what she's done."

Webb, 21, won \$180,000 (about £112,000) for her victory in the Sprint Trifolenders Championship, in Florida last week, to take her total so far to \$462,388 and said, "It's quite weird for me to have this much money in the bank. I don't know what to do with it." She will not be short of advice and she and Todd Haller, her fiancé and caddy, are already able to buy their new house in Orlando outright.

Webb, the Westabix Women's British Open champion, started her first US season.

wanting to be rookie of the year and finish in the top 40 on the money-list, but she has come to revise her plans. "My expectations have been blown out of the water," she said. "I have to look at Player of the Year now, but I really can't set a goal because I've already gone far beyond what I wanted to do."

Webb finished with a round of 66 last Sunday, to beat Kelly Robbins, the defending champion this week, by a shot. Robbins, weary after being on the road since January, has never had a better start to a season and is top of the Solheim Cup standings. The golf course suits her, a long hitter, too.

It is playing much longer than its 6,386 yards, sudden after 20 inches of rain since March, and that, of course, does not disturb Laura Davies, who has won here twice and was pipped by Robbins last year. England's finest won in Japan two weeks ago, was fourth last week and looked fresh and relaxed after a brief visit to Atlantic City. "Golfing? What golfing? You know me, I don't bet," she said. She did reveal that she was serving better than ever before — she won 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 on Tuesday (tennis is played of major championship warm-up Davies-style) — and that her golf was not bad either.



Webb: cashing in

Montgomerie aiming high

FROM MEL WEBB IN MADRID

THE GOLFER who won the Spanish Open two years ago has returned to Club de Campo and would surprise nobody — least of all, one suspects, himself — if he were to win the tournament again this week. The man who won it last year is also here, and would surprise nearly everybody — most of all, one suspects, himself — if he were to repeat the feat.

The player on the upbeat is Colin Montgomerie, and he was full of positive thoughts yesterday as he prepared for the event, which starts here today. He presented a stark contrast to Severiano Ballesteros, the defending champion, who continues to ride a long and sorry slump.

The difference in their demeanour gave the clue to the way they are approaching their golf. Montgomerie has had a first and a second among four top-ten finishes this season, and is critical of

only one area of his game: the putting. "I've not been hitting out quite as well as I should," he said.

"If I had ten ten-foot putts, I would normally expect to hole a good half of them. Right now I wouldn't expect to make more than two or three." The words of a man lacking in confidence? Not when the next sentence is: "Sure, I can get top-ten finishes with that sort of putting, but I like to win." Lucky man that he can afford to regard a top-ten finish as unacceptable. There is, he is assured, nothing much wrong with his morale.

Ballesteros likes winning too, and has done so more than 70 times in the past two decades, but what he would give to be getting ten-foot birdie chances at the moment, never mind taking them, can only be imagined. Ending the tournament in the top ten would be cause for wild celebration: winning has to be regarded as a notion that goes beyond fiction.

He was in muted form as he anticipated the approaching four days. He injured his left wrist a few days before he missed the cut in the Turespa Masters two weeks ago, and even though mysterious cracks in the joint seem to have disappeared, he is still nursing the injury. He will hardly be able to practise, and says he must not go into the rough too often. If recent form is an indicator, that is something that cannot be guaranteed.

"My game is still not right," he said. "I need to capture my rhythm again, and I need to get my concentration back. If I keep playing, perhaps it will come back soon." There was not a smile, not even a glimmer, words spoken, surely, more in hope than expectation.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 8 New York 2; Cincinnati 3 Los Angeles 2 (12 innings); Montreal 8 Chicago 3; Houston 7 Philadelphia 5; Atlanta 6 Colorado 5 (10 innings); San Francisco 4 St Louis 2; Pittsburgh 5 San Diego 3.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of three. The Oval, Surrey. Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (1st innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (2nd innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (3rd innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (4th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (5th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (6th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (7th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (8th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (9th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (10th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (11th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (12th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (13th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (14th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (15th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (16th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (17th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (18th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (19th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (20th innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (21st innings); Surrey 181, Gloucestershire 158 (22nd innings); 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Figure 1 illustrates the experimental setup. A participant is seated at a table, looking at a video screen. A camera is positioned above the screen to record movements. A light source is positioned to the left of the screen. A scale is positioned to the right of the screen. The participant is holding a pen and is about to move it from a starting point to a target on the video screen. The video screen is labeled 'Video screen' and the target is labeled 'Target'. The starting point is labeled 'Starting point'. The scale is labeled 'Scale'.

هَكَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Breadwinning, housework and fair shares

In ancient times, when men were men and women were women, the housewife was dragged around by the hair, nobody from the media came by the cave to ask the women if they were content to clean lincolns by beating them against stones on the riverbank. Or to steam fillet of grizzly bear over burning logs to satisfy the Great Hunter when he returned.

Some of the reasons for this are called the vacuum cleaner, the washing machine, the dishwasher and the disposable nappy. Before these innovations, men were content to give the impression that they were far too busy working or inventing golf to dabble in domestic science.

The arrival of mechanised housekeeping and the evolution of television brought, at first, television documentaries featuring smiling "housewives" lauding these fantastic inventions for (bribes: men were the inventors)

which had enabled the women to finish the housework in time to go next door for coffee with another woman who had finished the housework.

Then, in the recent past, two women called Margaret Thatcher and Germaine Greer, with naught in common but gender, helped create an economy in which the old employment certainties vanished plus a social order in which women are aware that there is more to life than housekeeping, should they so wish.

And television, having ignored the plight of women chained to a sink, now discovers role reversal: heavens above, the men are washing the dishes (or switching on the dishwasher). The women have gone to work! Pick up your camera and zoom in.

Modern Times Househusbands (BBC2) took three households in which the man is left holding the baby. Jon Gullis used

to be a builder, but we know what happened to that trade. His wife, Tracey, is sales director of Fabergé and drives to work in a Merc.

David Tierney used to work on oilrigs but when his wife, Agnes, had an extremely difficult birth at the age of 41 she found herself unable to look after the baby. So David stayed at home: "I used to walk up the road with one hand on the pram, as if it was nothing to do with me, but that wore off."

No doubt the contentment of men to stay at home and the fact that running a house is now so much easier is merely a coincidence, but is the arrival of the househusband a sea change or a temporary fad in which necessity has mothered invention? One suspects the latter.

Tracey Gullis had this to say: "Perhaps I'm an inverted sexist. To me, men should be building or tilling the soil and for me this

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

[childcare] is a natural extension of that, there's something very basic about looking after the family."

Possibly so, but Tracey also said this: "Jon seems to have two options: one is he looks after the baby and the other is he has a rest. My options are, I work or I look after the baby. I don't seem to get much down time."

Interestingly, Jon has adapted to childcare in rather fundamental

ways. Given a break to celebrate a friend's birthday in Hong Kong, Jon takes the trip but constantly rings up to ask about his daughter. He arrives back with a suitcase full of baby clothes.

The most vivid clue to the underlying tensions in this situation was provided by Nick and Clare Athorne. Nick was made redundant from a bank so Clare—after 20 years at home—had to work. She is not happy. Nick is adversely compared with Clare's father: "I had that feeling of being safe around my father but I don't feel safe with Nick at the moment."

Role reversal has fundamentally changed the Athornes' relationship. They have become "friends" but "other aspects" of their relationship "have gone". Clare was brought up to believe that a man would look after her. One felt she was speaking from the secret heart: perhaps not just her own. The old order changed in other

ways and Postcards from the Country (BBC2) promises to be an enlightening series, taken overall. Taken on the basis of its first episode, it was not much more than a reminiscence for village life long gone.

This series ought to be compulsory viewing for politicians, who spend their working lives cloistered in Westminster and their holidays abroad. As a result, they treat farmers as a protected species and villages as living theme parks. Richard Mabey is the writer and narrator and last night the focus was Chelsfield in Kent, a county whose villages once had everything from shops to telephone exchanges ("It's no good ringing him, he's out").

Paradoxically, given that rural buses are now commoner on postcards than on four wheels, the coming of the bus was the beginning of the end of the integrated

village. Buses took people to other villages and towns, widening their social and working horizons.

Kent used to be the Garden of England, but the garden has shrivelled. Hops are not the only product in decline: in 1950, Kent produced 15,000 tons of cherries, now the figure is 3,000. But flexible minds show signs of survival.

Whereas charcoal used to be in demand for hop kilns, the shrinkage of the hop industry has meant the creation of a lucrative niche market: charcoal for domestic barbecues. Thus has the invasion of villages by the commuting middle classes created its own market.

The trouble is that these invaders lack a natural affinity with their new environment. They turn out about the decline of fruit-growing but would strangle anybody who shot a bullfinch. Last night we learnt that two bullfinches will strip an apple tree of buds in 20 minutes. Work that one out.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (38287)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Cesfax) (69538)

9.00am Breakfast News Extra (Cesfax) (4622083)

9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7735644)

9.45 Killy (s) (6059286)

10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (19064)

12.00 News (Cesfax) regional news and weather (1045354)

12.05pm Going for a Song (s) (5287286)

12.35 Going for Gold. General knowledge quiz with the affable Henry Kelly (s) (4777606)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Cesfax) and weather (62625)

1.30 Regional News and weather (8259788)

1.40 Neighbours (Cesfax) (s)

2.00 The Flying Doctors (16006)

3.30 Playdays (s) (3.50 Peter Pan and the Pirates (s) (2724489) 4.10 The Wizard of Oz (Cesfax) (s) (5073285) 4.35 The Book Street Band (s) (Cesfax) (s) (2953170)

5.00 Newsround (Cesfax) (7452002)

5.10 The Art and Dec Show (Cesfax) (s) (6301808)

5.25 Neighbours (s) (Cesfax) (s) (482793)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Cesfax) (577)

6.30 Regional News magazines (557)

7.00 Top of the Pops (Cesfax) (s) (4204)

7.30 EastEnders (Cesfax) (s) (441)

8.00 Wildlife on One: Lost Lakes of the Pacific—A Dive into the Unknown. An underwater action adventure in the tropical Pacific. Narrated by David Attenborough (Cesfax) (s) (8064)

8.30 Airport. (2/6) Documentary series behind the scenes at Heathrow airport. At dawn, Bill Clinton emerges from his plane surrounded by his bodyguards and the press. Within three minutes he has gone. Meanwhile, at Terminal 1, Sid Oliver arrives in his Sierra. Twelve hours later, he is still there. At the same time in Terminal 3, customs officer Gareth Powell thinks he has caught a drug smuggler (Cesfax) (s) (5193)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Cesfax) regional news and weather (8538)

9.30 Absolutely Fabulous: Morocco, Edina, Patsy and Sartan go to Morocco for a fashion shoot. With Jennifer Saunders, Joanna Lumley (s) (Cesfax) (s) (50170)

10.00 Missing Babies. Series about Britain's busiest IVF clinic at London's Hammer Smith Hospital run by Professor Robert Winston (Cesfax) (s) (878996)

NORTHERN IRELAND: 10.00 Spotlight 10.30 Making Babies 1.20 Question Time 12.20am Film: Comes a Horseman 2.15 Weather

10.50 Question Time from Edinburgh. The guests are MPs Iain Duncan Smith, Mo Mowlam, Sir David Steel and Margaret Ewing. (Cesfax) (2295815)

11.55 Film: Comes a Horseman (1978) with James Caan and Jane Fonda. Western about two honest and hard-working Montana ranchers who join forces to fight off an evil, land-grabbing baron. Directed by Alan Pakula (790335)

1.45am Weather (3301403)

VideoPlus+ and the Video Plus Programme

The numbers next to the video programme listing are Video Plus "V" numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video Plus number (1-9) to select the video to record. VideoPlus+ (V), Pluscode (P) and Video Programme are trademarks of Genstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: The All-Electric Home (7317844) 6.25 The Birth of Modern Geometry (736151) 6.50 Engineering Mechanics (5329644)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4717132)

7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (Cesfax) (73731) 8.00 Blue Peter (s) (Cesfax) (s) (7475118) 8.25 Brum (s) (5436731)

8.40 The Record (s) (8637793)

9.05 Daytime on Two: The Biology Collection (7712793) 9.30 Techno (5891286) 9.45 Writing and Pictures (5894411) 10.00 Playdays (2390847)

10.25 Storytime (2401996) 10.45 Science Zone (587035) 11.05 Space Ark (5890016) 11.15 Landmarks (3977373) 11.35 Landmarks—Tudors and Stuarts (8772828) 12.00 Shakespeare—the Animated Tales (27877) 12.30pm Working Lunch (55248) 1.00 Lifeschool (5432880)

1.25 Revista (6185489) 1.45 Numberline (6294557)

2.00 Brum (s) (4496797)

2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7229064)

2.30 News (7072801) 3.05 Westminster with Nick Ross (9651499) 3.55 News (6123545)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (170) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (354) 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (s) (4622847)

5.40 The Sky at Night (s) (Cesfax) (s) (944118)

6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Cesfax) (s) (840170)

6.45 The O Zone. Pop magazine (s) (450915)

7.00 Waiting for God (s) (Cesfax) (s) (8289)

7.30 First Sight: Heathrow. We Have a Problem. The implications of Heathrow's ambitions to build a fifth terminal. NORTHERN IRELAND: An Droichead: WALES: Homeland; Eids: Matter of Fact; MIDLANDS: Midlands Report; NORTH, NORTH-WEST, NORTH-EAST: Close Up North; SOUTH: Southern Eye; SOUTH-WEST: Close Up; WEST: Close Up West (593)

8.00 Newsround (Cesfax) (s) (4508)

8.30 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson drives the Ferrari F50—a snip at £350,000 (Cesfax) (s) (8441)

9.00 The Travel Show (s) (9880)

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CHOICE

Secrets of the Paranormal: Ghost Rescue BBC2, 8.00pm

Lance Treadwell has a theory about ghosts. He thinks they are often souls lost in a limbo between life and death. When they cause bumps in the night, or whatever, it is their way of trying to get attention. So Treadwell and his wife, Ali, try to make contact with these unhappy beings and convince them that they are really dead. They can then be reunited with their family and friends and people who have died before them. Loving ghosts is far better than trying to exorcise them. The Treadwells are ready for the doubters. They cannot prove that ghosts exist but this will not stop their "rescue" work. Their approach seems to work for four young men who have had very strange happenings in the house they share. Since the Treadwells called, furniture has stayed in the same place and no more bottles have come flying down the stairs.

The Travel Show BBC2, 9.00pm

For 14 years The Travel Show has been trying to get behind the brochure hype and present holiday destinations, snags and all. If the beach is dirty and five miles from the hotel, this is the programme to say so. As an antidote to the more soulless visions of Bill Dando and Judith Chalmers, The Travel Show has had a valued place in the canon of television holiday coverage. Three items kick off the new series, hosted as usual by Penny Junior. In the celebrity guest slot, Dermot Morgan of Father Ted removes his dog collar to check out the new hotels and bars of Dublin. Jon Furell reports from Big Island, Hawaii, which both exemplifies and challenges the tourist clichés of the South Pacific. And a newcomer to the series, Sophie Campbell, does her best to say something fresh about Venice and almost succeeds.

Witness: Trying Tadic Channel 4, 9.00pm

Dusan Tadic, karate teacher, cafe owner and policeman, is the first man since the Second World War to face an international war crimes tribunal. He is accused of being implicated in an orgy of violence at the Omarska detention camp in northwest Bosnia in 1992. Belinda Giles's thoughtful film, which includes contributions from Tadic's family, former neighbours and alleged victims, is an attempt to place him in the wider context of the Bosnian tragedy. While not trying to minimise the enormity of the crimes, it asks whether Tadic is being made a scapegoat. It questions whether a small fish is being made to carry the guilt of much bigger ones. And it wonders whether, having already been condemned by the media, Tadic can have a fair trial.

The Poisoned Chalice: A Kind of Betrayal BBC2, 9.30pm

The unhappy story of Britain's relationship with Europe is told in a pungent, satirical comedy linked by the journalist Michael Elliott. Euro-scepticism was there from the start. As one veteran diplomat says, we have either patronised the Europeans or been scared by them. We sent only a minor official to the Messina conference which set up the European Economic Community. The Treaty of Rome was signed without us. When Harold Macmillan belatedly decided that Britain should join, he was humiliated by the President de Gaulle. Meanwhile, political parties were split. Labour under Gaitskill just as much as the Conservatives, and reputations damaged. Thanks to the recollections of key figures, notably Sir Edward Heath, the whole sorry tale comes depressingly to life.

Michael Elliott on Europe (9.30pm)

9.30 The Poisoned Chalice (Cesfax) (s) (909170)

10.20 Close Up. Michael Winner selects the battle scene from Oliver's Henry V (s) (411248). Followed by Weather (Cesfax) (556422)

10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman. (Cesfax) (556422)

11.15 Late Review (s) (171915)

12.00 The Midnight Hour with Trevor Phillips. Political chat show (s) (454787)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone: Open University (46107)

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Turmoil overtaking English rugby

RFU reaching the point of no return

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) has seldom been as isolated as it is now. At odds with the leading English clubs, riven with internal dissent, it has now been excluded from the other home unions' discussions over next year's broadcasting rights and when those discussions resume next Wednesday, will meet an unrivalled air of hostility.

Scotland, Ireland and Wales, together with France, met in London on Tuesday evening to co-ordinate their response to an offer made to each individual union by BSkyB — the satellite television company that is 40 per cent-owned by News International, owners of *The Times* — to screen the five nations' championship. England were not invited and when they do attend Wednesday's scheduled meeting of the five nations' television committee, they will be told they must either make common cause with their colleagues or risk exclusion from the 1997-98 championship.

The RFU has enough fences to mend already. Its representatives are due to meet those of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (EPRUC) this morning, accompanied by John Jeavons-Fellows, from their television committee, to try to find a way out of the impasse between them.

Scotland, Ireland and Wales resent England acting independently in pursuit of a greater percentage of television money. On Wednesday, the other unions hope a document of tender, agreed by all countries, can be drawn up for broadcasters, otherwise they will reiterate their threat to drop international fixtures with England at all levels.

The danger to England is more widespread than that, however: despite all protestations that the five nations' championship is the jewel in the northern-hemisphere crown, their unilateral action not only places a question mark over the tournament's

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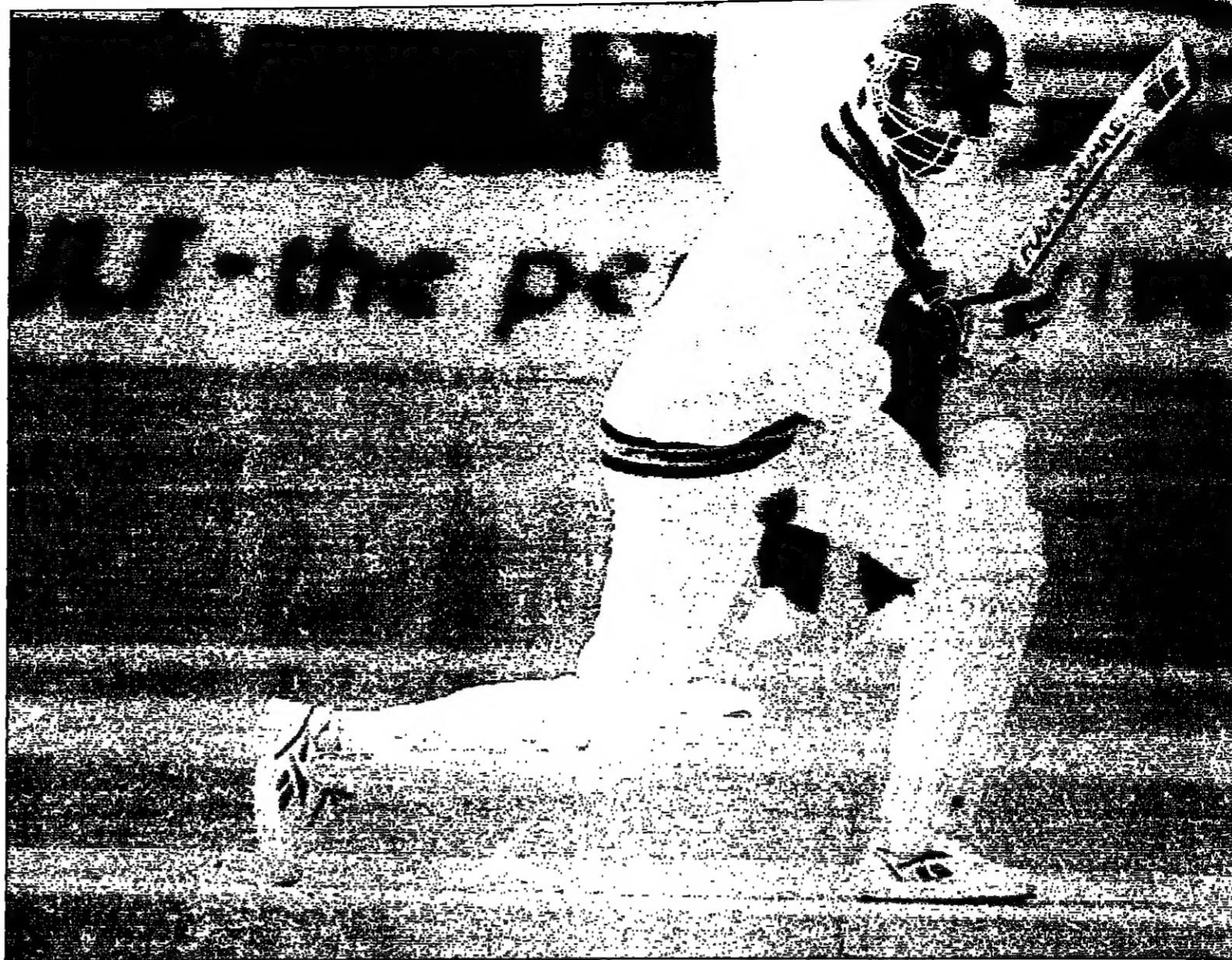
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Rathore, a little-known member of the India party, enhanced his prospects of a Test place by scoring 165 at New Road. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Rathore upstages India's big guns

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

WORCESTER (First day of three: Indians won test): Worcestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 331 runs behind the Indians

DRIVING down from the Malvern hills in early summer, with the morning mist evaporating, birdsong in every tree, and hope of finding cricket to match this most English of settings, is an eagle's dream. Worcester Cathedral, scaffolded as ever, peeps over the ground, a symbol of the eternal, in contrast to that "promised kiss of springtime", first-class cricket.

A goodish crowd gathered yesterday to see the Indians bat for most of the day against some modest Worcestershire bowlers. By tradition, the opening day at New Road marks the start of all tours, introducing unknown players and reminding people of the dimly remembered. It was chilly, but they were not bothered about that. Most of them stayed for the day and enjoyed what they saw.

In the modern world of communications, one does not often encounter a player who is largely unknown. Not many knew anything about Vikram Rathore before yesterday and, if he does not achieve anything else on this tour, he can at least dream sweet dreams of his century here.

Rathore (pronounced Ratord, apparently) has captained India A and took his chance in Sharjah last month, making a half-century against South Africa. He owes his place on this tour to Prabhakar's retirement from international cricket after his disastrous World Cup, and the dropping of Kambl for disciplinary reasons. Given an opportunity to show his worth, he has taken it at the first opportunity.

As Tendulkar scratched his way to 52 and Azharuddin played some glittering strokes in making 68, the bearded Rathore batted through five hours for his 165 until he tried to pick up Sherryar's square of the wicket and gave Curtis a catch at long leg. He had hit 26 boundaries, none more emphatic than the one down the

ground off Illingworth that brought up his hundred.

Rathore had his moment of luck early in the day when he edged Lampitt to Hick at second slip as Peter Willey, the umpire, was calling no-ball. Lampitt enjoyed no luck at all in that first spell, Rhodes somehow dropped the most

straightforward nick off Jadeja and Tendulkar pulled high to mid-on, where Sherryar never looked like catching it.

Sherryar, the left-arm seam bowler who left Leicestershire last season, had taken the wickets of Jadeja and Manjrekar by then, so he was in credit. Too much of the bowling was undemanding, so that Moody turned to Leatherdale's success after tea, when Azharuddin, attempting a hit to leg, played around a straight ball.

The India captain, of course, does not feature among the ranks of the unknown and dimly perceived. At his best, there is no more delightful batsman in the world, although there was nothing particularly delightful about the way he belted Hick for

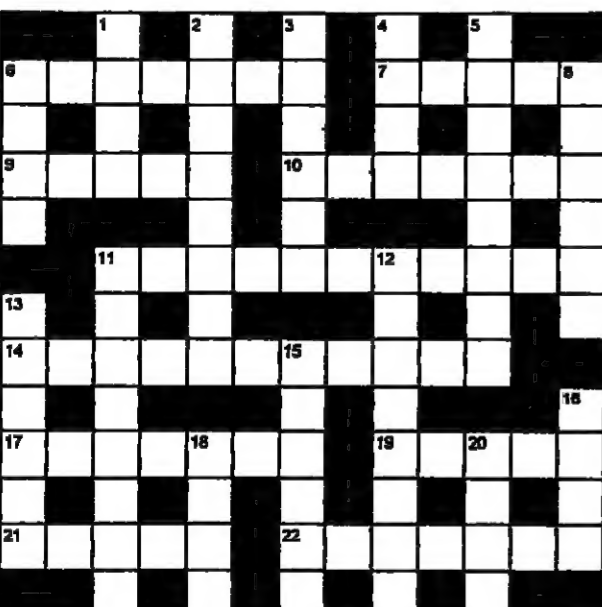
three sixes, one straight and two to leg. He was lucky, too, missed at short mid-wicket by Spiring when he was eight, though it was a hard chance, low to the fielder's right as he dived.

Together with Rathore, Azharuddin made 121 for the fourth wicket after the opener had put on 124 with Tendulkar, who was never at his most fluent. Too often he was "into" the stroke before the ball was there to hit. On another day some of his strokes would have found fields.

There were some handsome drives through cover, naturally, and, on the firmer pitches, he can expect to play on later, there will be many more handsome strokes to admire. After Lara's brilliance last summer, is such expectation crying for the moon?

Pollock unleashed, page 42

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**
- Legislative enactment (7)
 - Dutch bulb (5)
 - Conspirator (*Jullius Caesar*): sounds like *evildoer* (5)
 - Involuntary retreat (7)
 - Part (leg of foot) that works, moves (8,3)
 - Old Communist/free-world frontier (4,7)
 - Cul-de-sac (4,3)
 - Y-shaped block (5)
 - Happen again (5)
 - Bring to face indictment (7)
- DOWN**
- Make a profit (4)
 - Age of the dinosaurs (8)
 - Add flavour; time of year (6)
 - Knock senseless (4)
 - Slovenly woman (8)
 - Unwell (4)
 - Perfumed oil for hair (6)
 - Ability to float, rise (8)
 - 1980s US space defence program (4,4)
 - Ancient Greek ode-writer (6)
 - Incitement (esp. to bull) (3,3)
 - Plant producing fronds, spores, no flowers (4)
 - Jane —, married Mr Rochester (4)
 - Raised platform (4)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address _____

SOLUTION TO NO 776
ACROSS: 1 Orator 5 Thaw 9 Check in 10 Domain 11 Do-gooder 12 Engage 15 Cassio 18 Dictator 20 Kettle 22 Sunrise 23 Mole 24 Sheath
DOWN: 2 Rector 3 The pools 4 Raked 6 Holm 7 Waxing 8 Andrew 13 Go native 14 Modest 16 Agism 17 Potent 19 Cyrus 21 Tail

Venables picks England's path through chaos and confusion

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IT IS heaven and hell down at Lancaster Gate these days. With one month to go to the kick-off of Euro 96, the biggest and most profitable event England has staged for 30 years, there is confusion about some of the men who will run the European championship finals and some intended to play in them.

Terry Venables, the England coach, was expected yesterday to provide clarity about the shape of his final squad. Instead, he named 26 players for the match against the faded Hungarians at Wembley next Wednesday, a squad that could yet be reduced by one third if Liverpool and Manchester United require a replay to settle the FA Cup Final on Saturday. In addition, there is Paul Gascoigne, unavailable next Wednesday because of the Scottish Cup Final. Gary Pallister and Steve Howey, centre backs who are granted more time to prove their fitness, though that becomes Pallister who is at present girding his loins for the Cup Final. With the five stand-by players, among them Stan Collymore, there appear still to be 34 players vying for a place in the final squad of 22.

At least it appears good news that Tony Adams, Darren Anderson, Gareth Southgate and Alan Shearer are all recalled after injury absences; key men returning sounder in mind and limb

than if they had slogged through the 50 and more games of an English season.

Adams was last night playing in his first public match, the Paul Merson testimonial at Highbury, since his knee-carriage operation in mid-January. Anderson had already re-emerged, looking as fresh as a colt after his debilitating fight against injuries stretching back to September. Vital men, both, in the eyes of the national coach.

If some of the other inclusions in the squad to meet Hungary are to be genuine contenders for next month, then it would make sense if Ian Wright, Philip Neville and Sol Campbell are all given a game, for what can be the purpose of handing valuable places to performers who have had absolutely no experience at international level?

SQUAD

D Seaman (Arsenal), T Flowers (Blackburn, Rovers), I Walker (Tottenham Hotspur), G Neville (Manchester United), R Jones (Liverpool), A Adams (Arsenal), M Wright (Liverpool), G Southgate (Aston Villa), S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), S Pearce (Nottingham Forest), P Neville (Manchester United), P Lee (Internazionale), D Platt (Arsenal), R Lee (Newcastle United), J Redknapp (Liverpool), D Wise (Chelsea), S Madsen (Liverpool), J Wilcox (Blackburn Rovers), D Anderson (Tottenham Hotspur), S Stone (Nottingham Forest), N Barmby (Middlesbrough), A Shearer (Blackburn Rovers), E Sheenham (Tottenham Hotspur), L Ferdinand (Newcastle United), R Fowler (Liverpool).
Stand-by: D James (Liverpool), A Wright (Aston Villa), U Ekeogu (Aston Villa), T Sinclair (Queens Park Rangers), S Collymore (Liverpool)



Anderson: vital to England in the eyes of the coach

when the Arsenal goalkeeper, David Seaman, played there a year ago, still requires improvements and Venables will dispatch his assistant, Ted Buxton, for a further inspection next week.

At least no one will be able to blame the man who set up that tour, Trevor Phillips. He resigned abruptly on Tuesday from his post as the Football Association's commercial director — and so the head of a crucial department in running Euro 96, the man also responsible for selling the FA Cup to sponsorship, has gone. He left without public word of explanation: Lancaster Gate still offered none yesterday.

So, the Football Association meanders towards its finest hour with no head of the commercial department, with no successor to Charles Hughes as director of coaching and education... but with two fully-paid coaches of the national team. Venables will see his team through to the end of their European campaign and Glenn Hoddle, on the payroll from June 1, will spend the championship moonlighting for ITV.

To cap all of that, there is no indication of who will be the new head of the organisation when Sir Bert Millichip retires in June. He, no doubt, is hearing words even now from Church leaders offered by the Littlewoods poster campaign depicting the Cup Final as "heaven and hell".

United prepare, page 44

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